

PRAYERS FOR Prodigals

by B.J. Reinhard

These Scripture-based prayers are designed to be prayed for any loved one (a son, daughter, grandchild, the child of a friend, or even a spouse or parent) who has strayed from God into a destructive lifestyle. For the sake of clarity, the prayers are written with a son in mind. Please adapt them to fit your situation.

1. Lord, protect my son. Build a hedge around him to guard him physically, emotionally, and spiritually. Block his paths so that he cannot move toward activities and relationships that would harm him. (Job 1:10; Hos. 2:6-7)
2. Deliver him from evil. Rescue him from a destructive lifestyle. Restore him to his senses, and bring him home from the land of the enemy. (Mt. 6:13; Ps. 91:14; Lk. 15:17; Jer. 31:16-17)
3. Guide my son into truth. Teach him to recognize deceptive ideas and thoughts. Make him alert to the lies of the enemy, and teach him how to resist the devil by faith. (Jn. 16:13; 1 Cor. 2:16; 1 Pet. 5:8-9)
4. Give my son the courage to be honest with himself and with You. Spirit of God, convict him of sin and his need for You. Don't allow my son to blame others for troubles in his life. Show him that he alone is responsible for his choices. (Jn. 16:8; Gen. 3:12-13; Ezk. 18:20)
5. Lord, thank You for drawing my son with love and tenderness to Yourself, even in his desert place. Show him that You are with him. You delight in him. Amid the clamor for his attention and affections, may he hear Your voice calling him and respond to Your deep, deep love. (Jer. 31:3; Hos. 2:14; Zeph. 3:17)
6. Cause my son to call out to You in his distress and confusion. Cause him to seek You with abandon. Thank You for promising to answer him. (Ps. 91:15; Jer. 29:13)
7. Remove my son's heart of stone and replace it with a new, soft heart. Make this heart into a bed of fertile soil so that the seed of truth sown into it will grow deep roots and bring forth a rich crop of life. (Ezk. 36:26-27; Mt. 13:23; Col. 2:6-7)
8. Lord Jesus, reveal to my son that lasting refreshment and satisfaction can only be found in You. In You he will find an abundant life. (Jn. 4:10, 10:10; Ps. 1:3)
9. Lead my son to friends who will graciously point him to You. Cause him to be attracted to those who are attracted to

You. Scatter like chaff in the wind any friends who will bring him harm. Give him the courage to please You, not man. (Prov. 13:20; Gal. 1:10)

10. Produce in my son a humble spirit that is yielded to You. Teach him how to live in You, and show him that apart from You he can do nothing. (Jas. 4:10; Ro. 6:13; Jn. 15:5)

11. Lord, reveal to my son how valuable and significant his life is. Give him a vision for his purpose in the world, and show him the possibilities for his future. Through You, he can do all things. (Is. 43:7; Jer. 29:11; Phil. 4:13)

12. Help my son to see that he doesn't need to condemn himself. Show him that he can experience complete forgiveness through the work You've already finished on his behalf. Give him the grace to repent of and let go of the past. (Jn. 19:30; Acts 3:19; Is. 43:18-19)

13. Thank You for offering hope and comfort to my son. Thank You for restoring the years the locusts have eaten and bestowing on my son a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of despair. (Is. 57:18; Joel 2:25; Is. 61:3)

14. Teach my son that following You is not about following rules. Show him that what You long for is a genuine relationship with him. (Ro. 6:14; Jer. 9:24; Phil. 3:8,10)

15. Lord, cause my son to grow up in You, maturing into an oak of righteousness for the display of Your splendor. Help him to grow in wisdom and stature, and in favor with You and with man. (Eph. 4:15; Is. 61:3; Lk. 2:52)

16. Teach my son to live in freedom, animated and motivated by Your Spirit and in step with Him. (Gal. 5:16,25)

17. Teach my son to walk by faith. Help him to see beyond his circumstances and trust You with every part of his life. (2 Cor. 5:7; Heb. 11:1; Prov. 3:5-6)

18. Impress on my son the need to protect his mind, guarding its purity through the choices he makes about what he looks at, listens to, and thinks about. (Phil. 4:8; 2 Cor. 10:5)

19. Lord, in this fast-paced world of instant gratification, plant in my son the perseverance he needs to succeed. Cause him to be still and wait patiently before You. Help him to rest in Your power. Establish the work of his hands. (Ps. 37:7; Heb. 12:1-3; Ps. 90:17)

20. Turn my son's focus away from himself and onto You. May he allow Your power to flow through him to others. Teach him to love others as himself. (Phil. 2:4; 2 Cor. 4:7; Mt. 22:39)

21. Cause my son to love You with all his heart, soul, and mind. May he live all his days in love with and rejoicing in You. (Mt. 22:37; Ps. 27:4; Phil. 4:4)

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