**10 DAY PRAYER GUIDE**

By Brian and Laurie McCallister

“The basis of prayer is not what it costs us, but what it cost God to enable us to pray. It is the redemption of God, the agony of our Lord, that has made our salvation so easy and prayer so simple. When we emphasize the cost of prayer to us, we are wrong. The cost to us is nothing. It is a supreme and superb privilege marked by supernatural ease because of what it cost God.”

Oswald Chambers, *If You Will Ask*

***Every child deserves unconditional love.***

It is our call as the church to reach out to the little ones, the vulnerable children, their families and caregivers. By sharing the love and good news of Jesus through support, encouragement, provision and prayer.

 *Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for such belongs the kingdom of heaven.”* Matthew 19:14

*“Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.”* Matthew 18:3

God’s heart is for children. We are God’s sons and daughters. He chose us. He loves us and adopts us. He freely gives us His grace to pour out His love. God has rescued us from darkness and brought us into His light. He has rescued us not only physically but also spiritually. God Himself is the Father to the Fatherless. As we care for and gather in vulnerable children, through foster care, adoption, and through supporting foster care /adoptive families, we are joining the work that is close to His heart. The enemy has come to steal, kill and destroy. Just as God has rescued us from darkness and bondage, we believe His plan is to do the same for our children.  As we come together in the battle for the souls of these children and their families, we take courage and do not lose heart, knowing that Jesus has already won. And we believe that through His victory, we are more than conquerors.

We come together as the church to defend vulnerable children and their families and to pray for protection over them daily.

 **DAY 1**

             Our Position of Prayer

*“Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might.  Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil.  For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.  Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace.  In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints.”* Ephesians 6:10-18

Lord, as I enter into this battle on behalf of the souls of vulnerable children and their families, I pray that I and they will take on your armor. That we may stand against the schemes of the devil and powers of darkness. We stand in Your armor complete in You and indwelt by Your spirit. I pray that we would uphold this position of prayer in your victory against all attacks of the enemy. I fasten on the belt of truth, to protect against lies and deception. I put on the breastplate of righteousness, to protect my heart. I cover my feet with the gospel of peace, so that I’m ready to walk in Your light. I take up the shield of faith, that will extinguish all darts and threats hurled my way by the enemy. I put on the helmet of salvation, which covers my mind and reminds me that I am Your child, forgiven, set free, and saved by the grace of Jesus Christ. I take up the sword of the spirit, Your very word, that has the power to demolish strongholds and is sharper than any double-edged sword.  I pray that You would help us to remember to put on Your full armor each day. We trust that everything we need to stand firm in this world comes from You. Thank you God, that we are not alone, for You are constantly working, shielding, protecting, strengthening, exposing darkness, bringing Your light, and covering us. We pray for Your victory over these children and their families today and every day to come.

In the powerful name of Jesus, amen.

 **DAY 2**

God’s Provision

*“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.”* John 3:16

***“****And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.”* Philippians 4:19

Holy Father, I thank You and praise You for sending Your only Son into the world. Thank you that Jesus has laid down His life on the cross, so that I might know Your peace and be adopted into Your family. Thank you for the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. Thank you for the power present in our lives because of Your risen Son, Who equips us with courage and joy. Help me to see the fullness of what You have accomplished, so that I place my hope and trust in You for all things.

God, I pray for Your provision over the parents that are parenting children from “hard places” through foster care or adoption. I ask that You will supply their every need. As these parents lay down their lives for their children, remind them that it is through Your wounds that they are healed and that You are the deliverer they need. May You renew in them daily the joy of their salvation as they whole-heartedly trust You and Your loving-kindness that never fails. In the saving name of Jesus, amen.

**DAY 3**

Fear Not

*“For I, the Lord your God, hold your right hand; it is I who say to you,”Fear not, I am the one who helps you.”* Isaiah 41:13

*“Nevertheless, I am continually with you; you hold my right hand. You guide me with your counsel, and afterward you will receive me to glory. Whom have I in heaven but you? And there is nothing on earth that I desire besides you.”* Psalms 73:23-26

Lord, I come before you today on behalf of the foster and adoptive parents of our church and community. I pray for both the parents and children who are experiencing fear, loneliness, or the pain of abandonment. Remind them now that you are always with them and that You are holding them in Your right hand. God, guide each family with Your counsel today. For those parents who have grown tired and their hearts grown weary, please meet them there. Strengthen their hearts and lift each one with Your help. Whom do we have in heaven but You? There is none but You, God, that we desire.

You are our portion forever.

In Jesus name, amen.

**DAY 4**

Adoption

***“****For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will.”* Ephesians 1:4-5

***“****For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!”* Romans 8:15

*“I will be a Father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty.”* 2 Corinthians 6:18

Abba Father, thank you, that You have destined each one of us to be adopted as Your very own children. You have chosen us, planned for us to be Your own children through Jesus Christ. God, You knew that we would need a savior and that we would need adoption in order to be Your sons and daughters.

Please give us revelation of You, and a hunger in our hearts to truly know You as our Heavenly Father. As we draw near to You would you draw near to us, so we may fully understand Your Father’s heart of compassion and love towards us. Transform and grow that same heart within us, for our children.

As I pray over adoptive and foster families of our church and community, I am reminded that adoption is kingdom building work. Whether vulnerable traumatized children are in these homes for weeks, months, or years, I pray those children will know they are valued and loved. May each of the parents remember that they have been chosen in accordance with the purpose of Your will to care for and cover these children. You, God, have anointed them and chosen them for this time. You have promised to equip them. I pray they would confront the lies of the enemy, that would cause them to doubt their ability, and to doubt Your call on their lives. The lie that says, “Everything is too hard.”  Let the truth of Your word sink deeply into their hearts. Your words that speak, “You are chosen. Your children were chosen. God has anointed you and will continue to equip you as adoptive and foster parents.”

In Jesus’ name I pray.

**DAY 5**

By Prayer and Supplication

*“But I am afraid that as the serpent deceived Eve by his cunning, your thoughts will* be led astray *from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ.”* 2 Corinthians 11:3

*“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.  And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”* Philippians 4:6-7

Lord, I am aware that my thoughts and my heart can be led astray from pure devotion to You. I come to you through prayer and supplication with thanksgiving making my requests known to You, God. I openly admit that without Christ I can do nothing.

It is my prayer that You and You alone would be glorified, as the enemy will attempt to lead astray the thoughts and minds of adoptive and foster parents and families. May every thought be taken captive and subject to the authority of You, Jesus Christ, and Your sovereign perfect will. May each parent turn away from themselves, and turn to You, God, in the confidence that You will provide everything that they need. Grow them into God-glorifying families of prayer. I pray where there is any anxiety among or within parents or children, let them become completely dependent on You and Your all-sufficiency. With thanksgiving, I pray Your promised peace over them as they look to You for all things. And may Your peace guard their hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

In Jesus’ precious name I pray, amen.

**Day 6**

      Strength

*“He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might he increases strength.”* Isaiah 40:29

***“...****And do not be grieved, for the joy of the Lord is your strength.”* Nehemiah 8:10

*“The Sovereign Lord is my strength; he makes my feet like the feet of a deer, he enables me to tread on the heights.”* Habakkuk 3:19

Sovereign Lord, I lift up to You today vulnerable children of trauma who are now in foster and adoptive families. I also pray over those who have yet been placed in a safe home. I invite You in to dwell in the secret places of their hearts. That they would live in Your protective shadow. Please, hide them away from danger. As they are feeling weak and desperate to have control in their lives, may their hearts seek You and Your strength. When they are weary from emotions and circumstances that cause fear and insecurity, let them call upon You to increase their strength. Please speak to their hearts by the power of Your Holy Spirit, words and promises of your mighty strength and power. As these precious children look to You for their strength and as You make their feet like that of a deer, please secure their steps, and lead them on Your path.

In Jesus’ name I pray.

**Day 7**

Ask  Seek  Knock

*“Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.* *For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened.”* Matthew 7:7-8

*“Rise during the night and cry out.*

*Pour out your hearts like water to the Lord.*

*Lift up your hands to him in prayer,*

*pleading for your children,*

*for in every street*

*they are faint with hunger.”*

Lamentations 2:19

Lord, as I read these scriptures I can’t help but think of those living today as foster or adoptive parents. Refresh, renew, and awaken their hearts through prayer. May prayer not be a habit or exercise, but let it be life. Holy Spirit, as they rely on You to direct their prayers, may they ask, seek, and knock with reckless confidence in You, and in Your resources as their Heavenly Father. I join with them in lifting up my hands in prayer and pleading for these vulnerable children. Please, place a hunger in the hearts of each child that can only be satisfied by You. I join in with the cries of the parents and I pray for each child’s heart where the effects of trauma are manifested through anger, anxiety, fear, loneliness, confusion, longing for control, hurt, addictions, or hatred. I invite You in, Holy Spirit, to those places of great need. I am reminded and thankful that You have invited each of these children to a place at Your table and that You are the living bread of life. Open each of their hearts today to receive the life that You hold for them.

The name of Jesus, amen.

       **DAY 8**

Identity

*“I delight greatly in the Lord;*

*my soul rejoices in my God.*

*For he has clothed me with garments of salvation*

*and arrayed me in a robe of his righteousness,*

*as a bridegroom adorns his head like a priest,*

*and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.”*

Isaiah 61:10

*“That I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death.”* Philippians 3:10

Our God, thank you for our new identity in You that comes through Christ. It is our prayer as Your church, that we will share and reflect Your love and righteousness with all adopted and fostered children and those adults that are caring for them. As You clothe us, may we clothe them. We know and believe that You are sufficient for all tasks. By knowing You, we can trust in You. No matter where circumstances are leading, Your promise of salvation reigns. As You have formed these families to share in suffering may Your resurrection power bring abundant life.

In Jesus’ name, amen.

**Day 9**

Divine Power

*“For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ.”*

2 Corinthians 10:3-5

*“I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”* John 16:33

Mighty Lord, as I come to You in prayer enable me to be strong in You and in the power of Your might. As we are living this life in the flesh, the war we wage is not in accordance to the flesh. As we live in the world and face many troubles, our peace is found in You. I take time now to acknowledge and join in the spiritual battle that is surrounding foster and adoptive families. I stand against the wiles of the enemy on their behalf.  Comfort them that they do not have to fight alone. I call upon Your weapons of divine power, to come and destroy strongholds, arguments, and opinions raised against You. You and You alone know what each of those are. I pray against the traps of the enemy that would lead these families to believe that what they are facing is insurmountable. I pray against the lies of hopelessness, failure, and impossibility. In the lives of these families may those traps and lies be taken captive, placed at Your feet Jesus, and all made subject to Your authority. May your peace which surpasses all understanding, guard the hearts and minds of each child and their families.

In the mighty name of Jesus, amen.

 **Day 10**

Love One Another

*“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.”* John 13:34

*“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.”* Mark 12:30

*“Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things**Love never ends*.” 1 Corinthians 13:7-8a

God, You are love. It is only by receiving Your love, that we can love one another. Jesus, through Your death and resurrection You have shown us the full extent of Your love. I believe love is not only what you have done, but love is who You are.  I pray Your love today is poured out over foster and adoptive parents and their children. Often times we believe loving our children means mostly actions and behaviors. God, You know we have a tendency to place limits on our love and generosity, afraid that we won't have enough. Please, remind foster and adoptive parents of their transformed identity as Your beloved children. As Your beloved children let them experience the freedom of living in Your love. Releasing all expectations, misconceptions, and wishful thinking. As parents are living daily in Your love I pray their children will receive that love and experience what it feels like to live free from fear. Let each child rest in knowing that they are precious, valuable, and loved.

In the loving name of Jesus, amen.