

Prayers for Prodigals Resource

"Prodigals are an especially precious gift because they teach us much, including patience, the depth of our own need for forgiveness, and continual dependence on God in prayer." (James Banks)

"Suddenly the Lord said to me, 'Quit studying the problems and start studying the promises.'" (Ruth Graham)

The following are examples of using scripture to pray for prodigals. Many come from a scripture-based resource, Prayers for Prodigals, by James Banks—a pastor who had two prodigal children. Use these to inspire your own prayers. As you read scripture, look for examples and promises you can pray for your own unique situation and just keep adding them to this list.

-You have brought my own prodigal heart home, and I know you can do the same for my prodigals. Thank you in advance for what you will do to rescue them from the "dominion of darkness" and bring them into your "kingdom of light" and love (Colossians 1:12-13) I believe you will do this because your Word says that "from everlasting to everlasting the Lord's love is with those who fear him, and his righteousness with their children's children" (Ps. 103:17)

-Where I have my blind sides, Father, "forgive my own hidden faults" (Ps. 19:12). Let nothing about me be a "stumbling block" (Romans 14:13)

-“Our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.” (Ephesians 6:12) The struggle is not with my prodigals, but with the spiritual forces that influence them to turn away from you. I come against the “giants” of rebellion, unbelief, pride, independent spirit, deception, spiritual disinterest, addictions, lust, greed, idolatry, and every manner of spiritual oppression in the name of “the Lord strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle” (Ps. 24:8) Your “forces are beyond number” and those under your command are “mighty” (Joel 2:11) Use every means to cause the giants to fall. Come between my prodigal and anything that would cause them harm. Because you are “the Lord who heals” (Exodus 15:26) heal their relationship to you and restore it in every way.

2 Corinthians 4:4 “The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.” Unblind eyes the enemy has blinded so they may see the light of the gospel. Remove every resistance, overcome every argument, and expose every allure and false affection for the emptiness that it is.

-Ezekiel 36:26 “I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh.” Lord give them the blessing of a heart that can respond to your love—a heart that is seeking, hungry, repentant for their own sin, moldable in the hands of grace, and tender to God's will. Benevolent Father, loose every blessing you have waiting that will draw them to you.

-Just as you told your people in the wilderness, "I carried you on eagle's wings and brought you to myself" (Exodus 19:4), bring them out of the wilderness they are in. I pray they will recognize their own limitations and understand their need for you, and humble themselves before you so that you will lift them up (James 4:10).

-“as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts” (Isaiah 55:9) You see the best way through their problems, Father. I pray bring good from their circumstances that could not have come about in any other way. Use it all to turn their heart to you that they may “have life, and have it to the full” (John 10:10)

-“You can do all things,” Lord! “No plan of yours can be thwarted” (Job 42:2) My plan for my prodigal still has too much of the world in it, but your plan for them is perfect—magnificently beyond my vision. Give them the desire of your heart and make all your plans succeed (Ps. 20:4).

-I long to see them standing firm in you, oaks “of righteousness, a planting of the Lord for the display of his splendor” (Isaiah 61:3) Things look barren now, but spring will come and I pray they will turn their hearts to you and “grow in grace and knowledge” of all that you are (2 Peter 3:18) “I am still confident of this: I will see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.” I will be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord” (Ps.27:13-14).

-“The Lord is God, and he has made his light shine upon us” (Ps.118:27) Let your light overcome any darkness in their lives. I declare with Micah: “Even though they now sit in darkness I ask that you will be their light; show them, and lead them out of darkness” (Micah 7:8)

-“Then Jesus told them this parable: ‘ Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Does he not leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders and goes home....and says rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep’” (Luke 15:2-7) Good shepherd, you know where the lost sheep are and you will find the way to them and bring them home. Thank you that you won't give up looking even if it takes a lifetime. Remember the promise in Isaiah 43:5-6: “Do not be afraid, for I am with you; I will bring your children from the east and gather you from the west. I will say to the north, ‘Give them up!’ and to the south, ‘Do not hold them back.’” In your Sovereign authority speak to all places they have wandered and to all the forces that hold them back.

-“...if you can do anything take pity on us and help us....*If you can?...Everything is possible for him who believes* forI do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!....*Bring the boy to me.*” (Mark 9:20-24) I confess, like this desperate father that I struggle with unbelief. Thank you that you met his honest confession with kindness. It is not about what I can do, but keeping my focus on you—taking hold of **you**, not just what I want you to do for me. Help me to give up

control, trust your authority over my life and my prodigal's, prayerfully depend on you, and trust that "everything is possible to those who believe."

- 1 Peter 5:8 "Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour." Revelation 5:5 "See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has triumphed...." Lord, though the enemy pursues my prodigals with intent to destroy, I ask the Lion of the tribe of Judah to be swifter still and rescue them. Thank you that there is a Greater Lion! Fight for them and deliver them. In that moment, may they hear you speaking to their soul, "I am the Lord, and there is no other; apart from me there is no God. I will strengthen you, though you have not acknowledged me." (Isaiah 45:5) Fulfill your word that you "will lead the blind by ways they have not known, along unfamiliar paths" you "will guide them;" you "will turn their darkness into light before them and make the rough places smooth" (Isaiah 42:16)

-Ephesians 3:20 He "is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine." Lord I ask you to do a redeeming work in my prodigals far greater than my mind could ever conceive.

Jeremiah 31:3-4 ...I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore, I have continued my faithfulness to you. Again I will build you, and you shall be built....

Jeremiah 31:33 ...I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

Jeremiah 32:40 I will make a covenant with them that will last forever. I promise that I will never stop doing good to them. I will cause them to respect me. Then they will never turn away from me again.

Ezekiel 34:12 As a shepherd seeks out his flock when he is among his sheep that have been scattered, so will I seek out my sheep, and I will rescue them from all places where they have been scattered....

Ezekiel 36:27 And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws.

Hosea 14:4 I will heal their waywardness and love them freely, for my anger has turned away from them.

Zechariah 10:6, 8-9 I will restore them because I have compassion on them...I will signal for them and gather them in....yet in distant lands they will remember me....and they will return.

Micah 7: 8-9 ...when I sit in darkness, the Lord will be a light to me....He will bring me out to the light....

2 Kings 6:17 ...“O Lord, please open his eyes that he may see.”

Isaiah 43:5-6 Do not be afraid, for I am with you; I will bring your children from the east and gather you from the west. I will say to the north, ‘Give them up!’ and to the south, ‘Do not hold them back.’ Bring my sons from afar and my daughters from the ends of the earth—

Isaiah 43:18-19 “Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.

Isaiah 43:25 “I, even I, am he who blots out your transgressions, for my own sake, and remembers your sins no more.

Isaiah 44:22 I have swept away your offenses like a cloud, your sins like the morning mist. Return to me, for I have redeemed you.”

Isaiah 45:5 I am the Lord, and there is no other; apart from me there is no God. I will strengthen you, though you have not acknowledged me

Isaiah 46:4 Even to your old age and gray hairs I am he, I am he who will sustain you. I have made you and I will carry you; I will sustain you and I will rescue you.

Isaiah 49: 25 ...I will contend with those who contend with you, and your children I will save.

Isaiah 55:11 ...so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.

Psalms 20:4 May he give you the desire of your heart and make all your plans succeed.

Psalm 94:18 When I said, "My foot is slipping," your unfailing love, Lord, supported me.

Psalms 103:17 But from everlasting to everlasting the Lord's love is with those who fear him, and his righteousness with their children's children—

Psalms 107: 13-14 ,16, 20 Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble, and he saved them from their distress. He brought them out of darkness, the utter darkness, and broke away their chains. 16 ...for he breaks down gates of bronze and cuts through bars of iron. 20 He sent out his word and healed them; he rescued them from the grave.

Psalms 138:8 ...your love, Lord, endures forever—do not abandon the works of your hands

Joel 2:12-13 "Even now," declares the Lord, "return to me with all your heart, with fasting and weeping and mourning." Rend your heart and not your garments. Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love,

Joel 2: 25 And I will restore to you the years that the locust hath eaten....

Luke 15:2 The Pharisees and legal experts were grumbling, saying, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them."

Acts 26:18 ... to open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.

Ephesians 1:18 I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people....