

# FOSTER CARE AWARENESS MONTH LITURGY

## MAY IS FOSTER CARE AWARENESS MONTH

Each May we observe Foster Care Awareness Month to shine a light on the nearly 9,000 kids in care in Tennessee and all those connected to them. Bring a special touch to your worship services with a prayer during this powerful month.

This three-minute prayer can become more personal and impactful by including the names of foster and kinship parents, and social workers from your community, with their permission. You could also tailor the prayer to address specific local needs by seeking guidance from local child welfare agencies or foster parent associations.

## PRAYER FOR FOSTER CARE

Heavenly Father,

We come together with heavy yet hopeful hearts around the profound struggles within our community's foster care system. We seek guidance from Your Word, which illuminates our path toward those in need.

We are called to a love that mirrors Your own, a love that is described as pure and faultless: **James 1:27 says, "Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world."** Empower us, Lord, to embody this pure and faultless religion. Infuse us with this love.

In our prayer today, we bring before You the specific challenges faced by foster children and those who care for them:

*[Consider adapting the list below based on your community's greatest needs, according to your foster families or local child-welfare professionals]*

Protect **children who are at risk of entering foster care** by preventing their need to enter the system. May these children and their families meet compassionate adults who can help them heal and stay together as a family.

We pray for **children who will enter foster care**. Lead them to families with open hearts and homes who offer more than just a temporary shelter but a true sense of family and belonging.

We pray that **every child currently in foster care** will feel deeply cherished and cared for. Protect their hearts from fear and help them feel Your presence as a constant source of comfort and strength.

- We ask for healing and loving arms to **comfort infants** starting life battling the effects of substance exposure.
- We pray for **children with special needs or medical complexities**. Provide them with caregivers with exceptional wisdom, resources, and patience to care for these precious lives.
- We pray for **siblings in foster care** to stay together in nurturing homes that honor and maintain their bond.
- We ask for **teenagers in foster care** to find a sense of belonging and purpose, and experience the security and support of a family.

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## PRAYER FOR FOSTER CARE - CONTINUED

Surround **youth who have aged out of the foster system** with a community that supports and uplifts them, ensuring their needs for shelter and sustenance are met. And for those pursuing education or employment, grant them perseverance and opportunities that lead to fruitful careers.

Guide **adults who were once in foster care** to wholeness and peace. Show them Your love and healing, demonstrating what it means to be cared for by a perfect Father.

Grant **foster families who open their hearts and homes** the patience and creativity to meet parenting challenges with grace and love. Provide for their emotional, relational, spiritual, and material needs, ensuring they can give their best to the young lives they're caring for.

We recognize the sacrifices of **relatives—grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins—who step in to raise children**, pouring out love to maintain normalcy and security. May their homes be places of peace, love and profound belonging.

We pray for the **birth families of children in foster care** to find chances to connect and reconcile. Bless them with the means to rebuild their lives, instilling hope and resilience during their time apart.

We ask for Your guidance and wisdom for **social workers** who serve as vital links between children in need and the services that can assist them. Equip them with the wisdom to manage the changing demands of their roles and the health to continue their important work.

In all these things, we remember the vast love You have for us, described in **1 John 3:1: "See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!"** Let this truth echo in our hearts today.

In Jesus' mighty and merciful name, we pray all these things.  
Amen.

## FEATURED VERSES

JAMES 1:27  
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