†

Prayers for the *Family*

For children and grandchildren, husbands and wives, parents, the prodigal who wandered and the home that needs healing

WESLEY A.M.E. ZION CHURCH
1500 LOMBARD STREET · PHILADELPHIA · SINCE 1820

PRAYER

Prayers for the *Family*

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When Americans are asked what they pray about, family comes first: more than eight in ten say they pray for family and friends. That is no surprise. The people under our roof, and the ones who have moved far from it, are the ones we love most and worry about most.

The Bible is full of families, and none of them were perfect. Abraham's, Jacob's and David's households had jealousy, lies, distance and grief. God worked through every one of them. He can work through yours.

> *And if it seem evil unto you to serve the Lord, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.*
>
> JOSHUA 24:15 · KJV

Prayers for *children*

FOR MY CHILDREN

Lord, You gave me these children, and they are Yours before they are mine. Protect them in the places I cannot follow: at school, on the street, online, and in their own thoughts. Give them friends who build them up. Teach them to love You for themselves, not just because I do. Let them grow up knowing they are loved by You and by me.

AMEN.

A GRANDPARENT'S PRAYER

Lord, thank You for the gift of grandchildren. I have lived long enough to know what matters. Help me pass on faith, not just stories. Let my prayers cover them long after I am gone, and let them one day say, My grandmother prayed for me, my grandfather prayed for me.

AMEN.

FOR A TEENAGER

Father, my child is growing up, and I cannot hold on as tight as I used to. Guard their heart while they find their way. Give them courage to say no to what would hurt them and yes to what is right, even when it costs them. Keep the door open between us. And when they wander, bring them back.

AMEN.

Keep the door open between you.

PRAYERS FOR *marriage*

FOR OUR MARRIAGE

Lord, You brought us together. Hold us together. Where we have grown apart, draw us close again. Where we have hurt each other, give us humble hearts to apologize and big hearts to forgive. Help us to listen more than we talk, to laugh together, to pray together, and to stay together.

AMEN.

1 CORINTHIANS 13:4-8 · WHAT LOVE IS

13 Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, 5 Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; 6 Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; 7 Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. 8 Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away.

KING JAMES VERSION

IN PLAIN WORDS

Charity in the King James Version means *love* — the kind that gives without keeping score. Try reading it with your own name in place of *charity*: "_____ suffereth long, and is kind..." It is a good mirror for any marriage.

WHEN SOMEONE HAS WANDERED

FOR THE *prodigal*

Almost every family has someone who has drifted away: from God, from home, or from themselves. Jesus told a story about a son who took his inheritance, wasted it, and ended up feeding pigs. The most important line in that story is about the father: *"when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him."* He had been watching the road.

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FOR THE ONE WHO IS FAR AWAY

Lord, You know where _____ is tonight. I don't always know, but You do. Protect them from harm. Bring the right people across their path. Open their eyes the way You opened the prodigal's eyes in that far country. And give me a heart like the father's: ready to run, ready to forgive, ready to throw a party the day they come home.

AMEN.

BLESSING A HOUSE

FOR *the home*

BLESS THIS HOUSE

Lord, bless this house and everyone who comes through its door. Let it be a place of peace and not of fighting, of welcome and not of fear, of prayer and not of shouting. Let our children feel safe here, our guests feel welcome here, and our family feel Your presence here.

AMEN.

IDEAS FOR PRAYING AS A FAMILY

At meals: take turns saying grace, even the little ones. **At bedtime:** each person names one thing they're thankful for. **On birthdays:** lay hands on the birthday person and pray a blessing. **In hard times:** gather in a circle, hold hands, and let anyone pray who wants to. **On Sunday:** talk on the way home about one thing you learned at church.

1 *Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.*

PROVERBS 22:6

What we teach our children early stays with them.

2 *Except the LORD build the house, they labour in vain that build it: except the LORD keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain.*

PSALM 127:1

A house built without God is built in vain. Ask Him to be the builder.

3 *And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.*

EPHESIANS 4:32

Kindness and forgiveness are what keep a family together.

4 *And all thy children shall be taught of the LORD; and great shall be the peace of thy children.*

ISAIAH 54:13

A promise for your children: God Himself will teach them, and they will have peace.

SIT WITH IT

Which person in my family needs my prayers most right now?

What is one small habit of prayer my family could start this week?

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JOSHUA 24:15

Wesley A.M.E. Zion Church

"Big Wesley" · The Freedom Church · Founded June 6, 1820

SUNDAY SCHOOL	9:30 AM
SUNDAY WORSHIP	11:00 AM

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