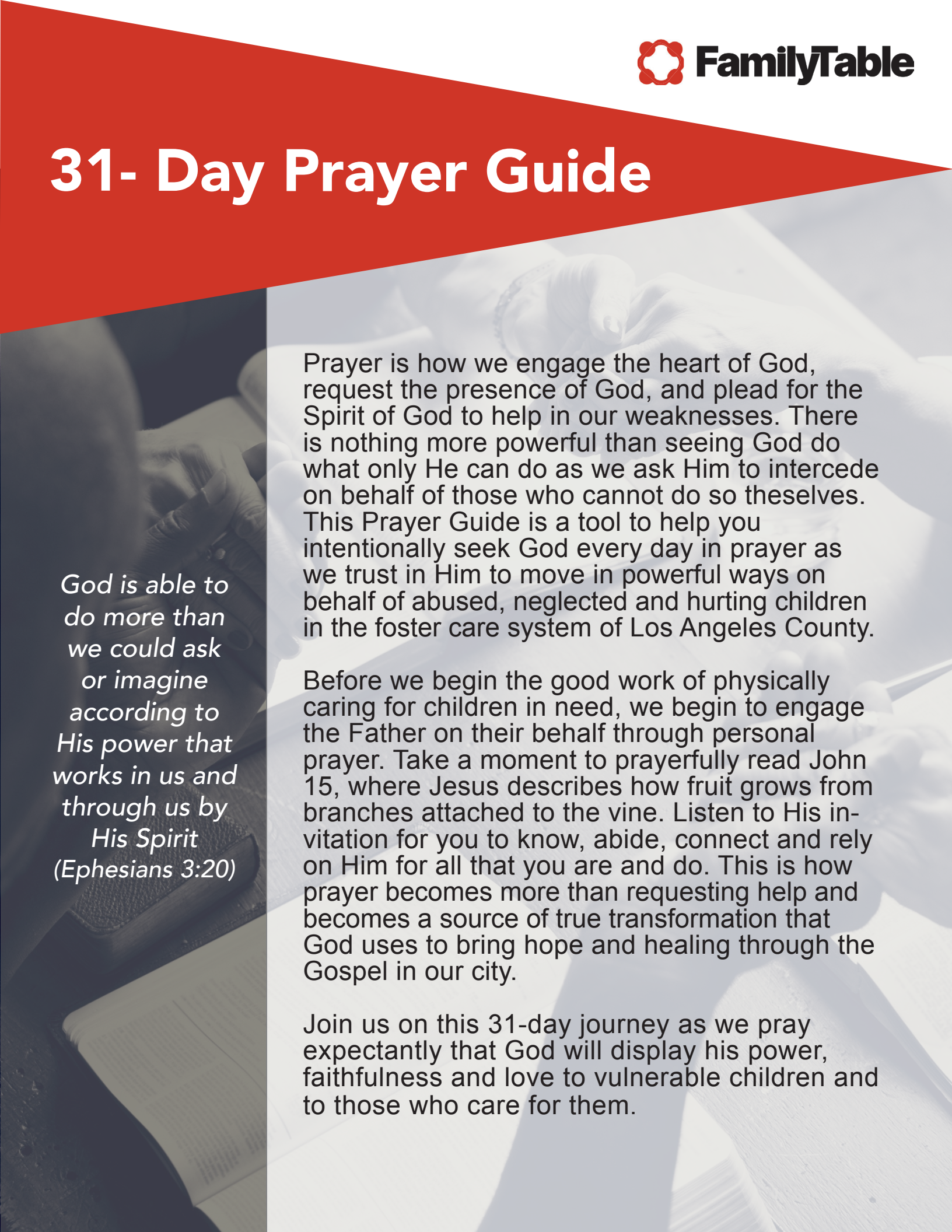


31- Day Prayer Guide



*God is able to
do more than
we could ask
or imagine
according to
His power that
works in us and
through us by
His Spirit
(Ephesians 3:20)*

Prayer is how we engage the heart of God, request the presence of God, and plead for the Spirit of God to help in our weaknesses. There is nothing more powerful than seeing God do what only He can do as we ask Him to intercede on behalf of those who cannot do so themselves. This Prayer Guide is a tool to help you intentionally seek God every day in prayer as we trust in Him to move in powerful ways on behalf of abused, neglected and hurting children in the foster care system of Los Angeles County.

Before we begin the good work of physically caring for children in need, we begin to engage the Father on their behalf through personal prayer. Take a moment to prayerfully read John 15, where Jesus describes how fruit grows from branches attached to the vine. Listen to His invitation for you to know, abide, connect and rely on Him for all that you are and do. This is how prayer becomes more than requesting help and becomes a source of true transformation that God uses to bring hope and healing through the Gospel in our city.

Join us on this 31-day journey as we pray expectantly that God will display his power, faithfulness and love to vulnerable children and to those who care for them.

31- Day Prayer Guide

1

Children in Foster Care

"The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit." Psalm 34:18

- Pray for children in foster care to experience God's love
- Pray for children recently introduced to the foster care system that are still confused, overwhelmed and sad
- Pray for peace and hope to be in their hearts
- Pray for them to learn how to express their wants and needs in healthy ways
- Pray for them to be able to feel comfortable and trust their resource (foster/adoptive) parents

2

Resource Parents

"So let's not allow ourselves to get fatigued in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up."

Galatians 6:9

- Pray for endurance and strength for resource parents in our community as they invite children into their families
- Pray for peace and understanding in every relationship: with the foster children, biological children, birth families of the foster children, social workers, and the church community
- Pray that they will be reminded of God's provision and love for them when they feel worn out and overwhelmed
- Pray that they will reach out and receive the support they need

31- Day Prayer Guide



3

Therapists and Counselors

"If you need wisdom, ask our generous God, and he will give it to you..."
James 1:17

- Pray that our counselors and therapists would work hard to discover what is best to help children in foster care, foster parents, social workers, birth families, and other individuals involved in foster care
- Pray that they would make time to care for their own physical and emotional well-being
- Pray that they would listen to God's Word, His promises and His wisdom as they help others walk through their hardship
- Pray that they would continue to walk alongside difficult children and situations and not grow weary of doing good



4

Church Congregations

"Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of wickedness, to undo the straps of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover him, and not to hide yourself from your own flesh? Then shall your light break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up speedily; your righteousness shall go before you; the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard." Isaiah 58:6-8

- Pray that the church in Los Angeles would be awakened to God's heart for the most vulnerable in our communities
- Pray that more local churches would develop a culture of caring for children in foster care
- Pray that local churches would be known as places of hope and healing for vulnerable children in our communities

31- Day Prayer Guide



5

Potential Resource Parents

"He took a little child whom he placed among them. Taking the child in his arms, he said to them, "Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me does not welcome me but the one who sent me." Mark 9:36-37

- Pray for couples and individuals to have ears to hear and eyes to see the needs of children in foster care
- Pray that they would follow God's prompting and leading if they feel called to open their hearts and home to children in foster care
- Pray for unity and grace in marriages of potential resource parents
Pray against fear, uncertainty, and discouragement
- Pray against fear, uncertainty and discouragement



6

Antelope Valley

"We love because he first loved us." 1 John 4:19

- Pray that vulnerable children and families in the Antelope Valley would experience the transforming love of God through local churches serving foster families
- Pray that we will see a waiting list of foster families in the AV, rather than a waiting list of children in need of a home

31- Day Prayer Guide

7

Respite Care Providers

"But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth."

1 John 3:18

- Pray that as they provide rest and relief to foster and adoptive families they too will experience rest and relief in their own lives
- Pray that a large number of individuals and churches would actively seek to provide respite care for foster and adoptive families in your community

8

Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)

"Speak up for the poor and helpless and see that they get justice."

Proverbs 31:9

- Pray for loving and effective advocacy for the kids and families each CASA serves
- Pray for more CASA workers to be raised up and trained to assist the most vulnerable kids in the system
- Pray for better relationships between CASA and the faith based communities of Los Angeles as they work towards the same goal
- Pray for the emotional, mental and physical health of weary CASA workers working with social workers, case workers, DCFS, medical professionals, teachers, foster/bio parents and judges

31- Day Prayer Guide

9

Access to Medical and Mental Health Services

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."
Matthew 11:28-30

- Pray that children in foster care and biological parents would have access to quality mental health services to address hard issues so reunification can be achieved
- Pray for biological parents to have the opportunity to participate in addiction recovery programs
- Pray that doctors and psychiatrists would have wisdom when treating and prescribing medication for foster children and biological parents

10

Addiction Recovery for Biological Family Members

"So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed." John 8:36

- Pray that God would set family members free from addictions
- Pray for biological parents to have the opportunity to participate in addiction recovery programs so reunification can be achieved
- Pray for compassionate addiction counselors and recovery group leaders

31- Day Prayer Guide

11

San Fernando Valley, Santa Clarita Valley

"A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows, is God in His holy dwelling."
Psalm 68:5

- Pray that vulnerable children and families in the San Fernando and Santa Clarita Valleys would experience the transforming love of God through local churches serving foster families
- Pray that we will see a waiting list of foster families in the San Fernando and Santa Clarita Valleys, rather than a waiting list of children in need of a home

12

Judges and Lawyers

"For the Lord gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding."
Proverbs 2:6

- Pray that they would have deep wisdom to see the specific needs of children in foster care in our community
- Pray that they would take an active role in initiating repair of what is broken in families and in the foster care system
- Pray that they would seek out true justice when defending children

31- Day Prayer Guide

13

Child Welfare Workers

"Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves." Proverbs 31:8

- Pray for the physical and emotional well being of social workers in our community as they come face to face with difficult decisions
- Pray that churches in our community would commit to care for and to support child welfare professionals
- Pray that social workers and administrators would fight discouragement and burnout by continuously seeking and finding joy, hope, and peace in Christ
- Pray that the Family Table would be a source of encouragement and hope for social workers and county workers

14

Law Enforcement

"Defend the weak and the fatherless; uphold the cause of the poor and the oppressed. Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked." Psalm 82:3-4

- Pray that law enforcement officers in our community would be well equipped to engage in their roles as protectors of the weak, including children who experience abuse or neglect
- Pray that law enforcement officers in our community would have wisdom and empathy as they interact with children who come from hard places

31- Day Prayer Guide

15

Employers and Co-workers of Resource Parents

"Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven." Matthew 5:16

- Pray for understanding, flexibility, and support from the employers of resource parents when work is interrupted or less productive
- Pray that employers and co-workers of resource parents would be inspired by the resource parent's dedication to caring for children in the foster care system
- Pray for resource parents to have opportunities to share the Gospel as their motivation for their fostering children

16

Biological Children of Resource Parents

"God sets the lonely in families." Psalm 68:6

- Pray that the biological children of resource parents would feel and know how loved they are by their own parents, extended family members, and friends
- Pray that they would be able to express their wants and needs in healthy ways
- Pray for their hearts to grow in compassion for vulnerable children in their schools and communities

31- Day Prayer Guide

17

San Gabriel Valley

"Pure and lasting religion in the sight of God our Father means that we must care for orphans and widows in their troubles, and refuse to let the world corrupt us."
James 1:27

- Pray that vulnerable children and families in the San Gabriel Valley would experience the transforming love of God through local churches serving foster families
- Pray that we will see a waiting list of foster families in San Gabriel Valley, rather than a waiting list of children in need of a home

18

Sustainable Employment and Secure Housing for Biological Families

And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:19

- Pray that landlords would have compassion and mercy for biological parents in need of secure and affordable housing so they can provide a safe place for their children and achieve reunification
- Pray that employers would have generous hearts and provide their employees with sustainable wages so biological families can provide for their needs and achieve reunification
- Pray for homeless families to have rapid placements into family shelters and permanent housing to prevent children from being removed

31- Day Prayer Guide

19

Foster Care Organizations

"Learn to do right; seek justice. Defend the oppressed. Take up the cause of the fatherless..." Isaiah 1:17

- Pray for other foster care advocates and organizations to keep persevering in providing for the needs of all those involved in the foster care system
- Pray for people to generously volunteer their time and donate financially to programs the organizations provide

20

Foster Youth Aging out of the System

"He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds." Psalm 147:3

- Pray that every youth who ages out of the foster care system in our community would have the resources necessary to survive and to thrive as an adult living on their own
- Pray that youth would have a wise support system of adults who will mentor them through the process of aging out
- Pray that God would reveal ways for the people and churches in our community to tangibly support children who age out of the foster care system

31- Day Prayer Guide

 21

Biological Families

For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. Jeremiah 29:11

- Pray that biological parents in Los Angeles would have the strength they need to face their circumstances and keep the best interests of their children in mind
- Pray for the relationship between biological parents, foster parents, and the foster care system; that biological parents feel heard and that others are able to extend compassion
- Pray that churches in our community would learn how to support biological families and how to equip biological parents to prepare for reunification with their children

 22

The Family Table

"Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will." Romans 12:1-2

- Pray for wisdom, compassion and gentleness as we coach partner churches
- Pray for more churches to partner with us and follow Jesus as he leads them towards broken places
- Pray for a greater love and unity in the Body of Christ in Los Angeles

31- Day Prayer Guide

23

West Los Angeles

“I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.” Matthew 25:40

- Pray that vulnerable children and families in the Westside would experience the transforming love of God through local churches serving foster families
- Pray that we will see a waiting list of foster families in the Westside, rather than a waiting list of children in need of a home

24

Foster Children's Transitions into school/home/family

“The Lord watches over the sojourners; he upholds the widow and the fatherless...” Psalm 146:9

- Pray for adults to make wise decisions about schools and placements that impact foster children
- Pray for peace in the hearts of foster children experiencing transitions into new schools and families
- Pray for God to reveal his love and care for children in foster care

31- Day Prayer Guide

 25

Support Teams

"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms." 1 Peter 4:10 NIV

- Pray that each resource family would have enough support community to provide for their practical, emotional, and spiritual needs
- Pray for church congregations to be led by the Holy Spirit to take the next steps to become part of the support community helping families
- Pray that support teams experience rest and self-care to be able to give their time and energy to resource families they are supporting

 26

Central Los Angeles

"Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen."
Ephesians 3:20-21

- Pray that vulnerable children and families in the Central Los Angeles area would experience the transforming love of God through the local church
- Pray that we will see a waiting list of foster families in Central Los Angeles, rather than a waiting list of children in need of a home

31- Day Prayer Guide

27

Life Giving Friendships for Foster Children

Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor: If either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up. Ecclesiastes 4:9-10

- Pray for foster children to make life giving friendships with children in their churches and schools
- Pray for foster children to make wise decisions in the friends they choose
- Pray for classmates and teammates of foster children to have empathy and love

28

Teachers and Principals

"Act justly, love mercy and walk humbly with your God." - Micah 6:8

- Pray for teachers in our local schools to be aware of the unique needs that children in foster care may have and that they would have the tools and knowledge needed to respond to these needs
- Pray that teachers and foster, adoptive, or birth parents would all make the effort to work together so that children can excel in school
- Pray that teachers at our local schools are able to experience rest and renewal

31- Day Prayer Guide

29

Health Care Professionals

"But you, God, see the trouble of the afflicted; you consider their grief and take it in hand. The victims commit themselves to you; you are the helper of the fatherless." Psalm 10:14

- Pray that health care professionals at local hospitals would have the time and resources needed to holistically care for children in foster care
- Pray that God will reveal to doctors and nurses the specific needs of children in Foster Care and that they will make wise decisions as they plan out care
- Pray that God would raise up more doctors and nurses in your area who are passionate about using their gifts and profession to bring healing and hope to children in foster care

30

South Bay / South Central (South Gate, Compton, Lynwood, Inglewood, Hawthorne)

"We must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus Himself said: It is more blessed to give than to receive." Acts 20:35

- Pray that vulnerable children and families in the South Bay / South Central area would experience the transforming love of God through the local church
- Pray that we will see a waiting list of foster families in South Bay / South Central, rather than a waiting list of children in need of a home

31- Day Prayer Guide

31

Adoptive Families

"Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight." Proverbs 3:5-6

- Pray that potential adoptive parents in our community listen to the Lord's direction as they pursue adoption of a particular child in the foster care system
- Pray that adoptive parents would seek Biblical wisdom and the advice of other adoptive parents as they walk with their children through healing
- Pray that communities and churches in our area would come around adoptive parents in support and encouragement

Thank you to CAFO and Foster the Bay for prayer point ideas