

The logo for Foster the City, featuring the words "FOSTER" and "THE CITY" stacked vertically in a white, sans-serif font, set against a blue, rounded rectangular background.

FOSTER
THE CITY

The background of the cover is a black and white photograph of two hands held together in a prayerful gesture, palms facing each other. The hands are slightly blurred, creating a sense of depth and focus on the central text.

Prayer
GUIDE
2022

Prayer – G U I D E

The great 19th century Methodist minister, E.M. Bounds famously said, “God shapes the world by prayer.” This prayer guide is a holy petition for God to shape the world according to His will. Or in the words of Jesus, “Your Kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.” Prayer is the central pillar of the movement of Foster the City. There is nothing more powerful than seeing God do what only He can do as we cry out to him on behalf of vulnerable children and those who support them. This 31-day 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 in families, churches, the foster care system and children in need.

As we align ourselves with God’s heart to uphold the cause of the oppressed, sustaining the fatherless (Psalm 146), and loving our neighbor as ourselves (Mark 12:31) our power to be used by Him to effect this change in our cities and the world beyond, begins with prayer. Prayer is our first response, not our last resort. According to Jesus, the key to our fruitfulness is knowing him, abiding in him, connecting with him, relying on him, and seeking His will in everything we do. This is why prayer is at the heart of all we do in our churches and in our cities. We believe that prayer is the central avenue God uses to transform us and the world around us.

Join us on a 31-day journey as we pray expectantly that God will display his power, faithfulness and love to vulnerable children and to those in the local church tasked to care for them. 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—GUIDE

Day 1 – Children in Foster Care

“For you formed my inward parts;
you knitted me together in my mother's womb.
I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.
Wonderful are your works;
my soul knows it very well.
My frame was not hidden from you,
when I was being made in secret,
intricately woven in the depths of the earth.
Your eyes saw my unformed substance;
in your book were written, every one of them,
the days that were formed for me,
when as yet there was none of them.”
Psalm 139:13–16

Pray for peace and comfort as they are navigating all of the changes around them

Pray for loving people to surround them, to see beyond any behaviors and to believe in their potential while provide consistency in their lives

Pray that they learn to love Jesus

Pray that the Father shows Himself to kiddos in Foster Care and puts intentional people in their lives to show them their worth and how much they are loved

Day 2 – Birth Families

“To all who mourn, he will give a crown of beauty for ashes, a joyous blessing instead of mourning, festive praise instead of despair. In their righteousness, they will be like great oaks that the LORD has planted for his own glory.” Isaiah 61:3

Pray that they know there is a God who loves them deeply and unconditionally

Pray that they are shown love and support from their community

Pray they would be open to and experience healing

Pray God would bring mentors into their lives to motivate and guide them

Pray that they would receive the resources and services they need to succeed

Pray for biological parents to be open about anything they need to change in order for their children to be safe at home

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

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Day 3 – Santa Clara County

“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

That vulnerable children and families in Santa Clara County would experience the transforming love of God through foster families and Support Friends who will be raised up in our partner church communities

Pray that teachers in our local schools would be aware of the unique needs children in foster care may have and that teachers would have the tools and knowledge needed to respond to these needs

That we will see a waiting list of foster families in Santa Clara County, rather than a waiting list of children in need of a home

Day 4 – Resource Parents (Foster Parents)

“I lift up my eyes to the hills.
From where does my help come?
My help comes from the Lord,
who made heaven and earth.” Psalm 121: 1–2

Pray for endurance and strength for resource parents in our community as they invite children into their families

Pray for the relationship between the foster parents and that God protects that relationship

Pray for the other children in the house, that they understand what foster care is and love the child(ren) as they would another sibling

Pray for those going through reunification

Pray for people to step into the lives of foster parents to support them on this journey and give them regular ways to be refreshed

Prayer – G U I D E –

Day 5- Los Angeles County

“This is my command: that you love one another as I have loved you.” John 15:12

That vulnerable children and families in Los Angeles County would experience the transforming love of God through foster families and Support Friends who will be raised up in local church communities

Pray that teachers in our local schools would be aware of the unique needs children in foster care may have and that teachers would have the tools and knowledge needed to respond to these needs

That we will see a waiting list of foster families in LA County, rather than a waiting list of children in need of a home

Day 6 - Sonoma County

“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

That vulnerable children and families in Sonoma would experience the transforming love of God through foster families and Support Friends who will be raised up in local church communities

Pray that teachers in our local schools would be aware of the unique needs children in foster care may have and that teachers would have the tools and knowledge needed to respond to these needs

That we will see a waiting list of foster families in Sonoma County, rather than a waiting list of children in need of a home

Prayer—G U I D E

Day 7 - Church Congregations

“Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up. He said: “In a certain town there was a judge who neither feared God nor cared what people thought. And there was a widow in that town who kept coming to him with the plea, ‘Grant me justice against my adversary.’ “For some time he refused. But finally he said to himself, ‘Even though I don’t fear God or care what people think, yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will see that she gets justice, so that she won’t eventually come and attack me!’ ” And the Lord said, “Listen to what the unjust judge says. And will not God bring about justice for his chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off? I tell you, he will see that they get justice, and quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?” Luke 18:1-8

Pray that church congregations in our communities would be awakened to God’s heart for the most vulnerable in our communities

Pray that church congregations would be open to taking on a culture of caring for children in foster care

Pray that church congregations would be known as places of hope and healing for vulnerable children in our communities

Pray that churches will not only support Resource Families but also vulnerable biological families

Day 8- Potential Resource Parents

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.” Proverbs 3:5-6

Pray for couples and individuals to have ears to hear and eyes to see the needs of foster children in their community

Pray for patience as they move through the process

Pray that they would trust in God’s direction if they feel called to open their hearts and home to children in foster care and boldly follow His leading

Pray for unity and grace in marriages of potential resource parents

Pray against fear

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Day 9 – 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 just as they provide rest and relief to foster and adoptive families, that they will also 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

Pray that their example of sacrifice and service would serve as an example to others that anyone can be involved in foster care in some capacity

Day 10 – Napa County

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

That vulnerable children and families in Napa County would experience the transforming love of God through foster families and Support Friends who will be raised up in local Napa County church communities

Pray that teachers in our local schools would be aware of the unique needs children in foster care may have and that teachers would have the tools and knowledge needed to respond to these needs

That we will see a waiting list of foster families in Napa County, rather than a waiting list of children in need of a home

Prayer — G U I D E

Day 11 – Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)

“Speak up for the poor and helpless and see that they get justice.” Proverbs 31:9

Pray that God would raise up groups of people within our community to become CASA volunteers so that every child has someone to speak up for them in court

Pray that CASA volunteers would be well equipped to support children in foster care and have the knowledge needed to speak up for the children

Pray that CASA volunteers would build meaningful and lasting relationships that would communicate love and worth to children in foster care

Day 12 – Washoe County

“Yet the LORD longs to be gracious to you; therefore he will rise up to show you compassion. For the LORD is a God of justice. Blessed are all who wait for him! People of Zion, who live in Jerusalem, you will weep no more. How gracious he will be when you cry for help! As soon as he hears, he will answer you.” Isaiah 30:18-19

That vulnerable children and families in Washoe County would experience the transforming love of God through foster families and Support Friends who will be raised up in local Washoe

County church communities

Pray that teachers in our local schools would be aware of the unique needs children in foster care may have and that teachers would have the tools and knowledge needed to respond to these needs

That we will see a waiting list of foster families in Washoe County, rather than a waiting list of children in need of a home

Day 13 – Law Enforcement, Judges, and Lawyers

“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 they would have deep spiritual 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

Pray that the 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

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Day 14 - San Mateo County

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

That vulnerable children and families in San Mateo County would experience the transforming love of God through foster families and Support Friends who will be raised up in local San Mateo County church communities

Pray that teachers in our local schools would be aware of the unique needs children in foster care may have and that teachers would have the tools and knowledge needed to respond to these needs

That we will see a waiting list of foster families in San Mateo County, rather than a waiting list of children in need of a home

Day 15 - Child Welfare Workers

"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 against feelings of hopelessness and discouragement. Many times social workers feel the pressure to "fix a problem" or "find a solution," and when the outcome isn't positive, it can feel like a personal failure.

Pray for their mental and emotional health. Dealing with trauma and repetitive crisis can cause either emotional numbing or personal reactions that aren't appropriate for the relationship.

Pray for constant reminders that God is in control and the one responsible for the fixing and healing - not them!

Pray for rest and self care.

Pray for more resources so they can do their best work.

Pray that Foster the City would continue to be a source of encouragement and hope for social workers and county workers.

Prayer—G U I D E—

Day 16 - Santa Cruz County

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

That vulnerable children and families in Santa Cruz County would experience the transforming love of God through foster families and Support Friends who will be raised up in local Santa Cruz County church communities

Pray that teachers in our local schools would be aware of the unique needs children in foster care may have and that teachers would have the tools and knowledge needed to respond to these needs

That we will see a waiting list of foster families in Santa Cruz County, rather than a waiting list of children in need of a home

Day 17 - Reunification: The goal for foster care is always reunification

“I will give them a heart to know that I am the Lord, and they shall be my people and I will be their God, for they shall return to me with their whole heart.” Jeremiah 24:7

Pray the child(ren) adjust to their new guardians and to thrive in their new environment

Pray for peace for the foster families who have grown attached to the children and are having to say goodbye

Pray over the transition period

Pray for the family member(s)/bio parent who is stepping up to raise the child(ren): for God to give them wisdom to parent well and provide a safe and loving home

Pray that the idea of reunification doesn't prevent people from opening up their homes and loving these amazing kids

Prayer — G U I D E —

Day 18 – Adopted/Biological Children of Resource Parents

“God sets the lonely in families.” Psalm 68:6

Pray that the adopted and 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

Day 19 – Alameda County

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

That vulnerable children and families in Alameda County would experience the transforming love of God through foster families and Support Friends who will be raised up in local Alameda County church communities

Pray that teachers in our local schools would be aware of the unique needs children in foster care may have and that teachers would have the tools and knowledge needed to respond to these needs

That we will see a waiting list of foster families in Alameda County, rather than a waiting list of children in need of a home

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Day 20 - Orange County

“Jesus replied: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.” Matthew 22:37-40

That vulnerable children and families in Orange County would experience the transforming love of God through foster families and Support Friends who will be raised up in local church communities

Pray that teachers in our local schools would be aware of the unique needs children in foster care may have and that teachers would have the tools and knowledge needed to respond to these needs

That we will see a waiting list of foster families in Orange County, rather than a waiting list of children in need of a home

Day 21- Aging out Foster Youth

“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. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you. You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart.” Jeremiah 29:11-13

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 support system of adults in our community who will guide 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

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Day 22 – San Francisco County

“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

That vulnerable children and families in San Francisco would experience the transforming love of God through foster families and Support Friends who will be raised up in local San Francisco County church communities

Pray that teachers in our local schools would be aware of the unique needs children in foster care may have and that teachers would have the tools and knowledge needed to respond to these needs

That we will see a waiting list of foster families in San Francisco County, rather than a waiting list of children in need of a home

Day 23– Foster The City Leadership

“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 protection against discouragement in the hearts of our Foster The City leaders

Pray for the leaders’ marriages to stay strong and be prioritized while also keeping up with the responsibilities of the ministry

Pray for wisdom and inspiration in Foster They City leaders as they seek God’s will for this movement.

Pray for rest and self care so they can be effective leaders

Prayer – G U I D E –

Day 24 – Support Friends

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 that every Foster The City resource family would have enough support friends to provide for their practical, emotional, and spiritual needs

Pray for people attending Foster The City interest meetings to be led by the Holy Spirit to take the next steps to become support friends

Pray that support friends are able to experience rest and self-care so they can give their time and resources to the resource family they are supporting

Day 25 – Contra Costa County

“But they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.” Isaiah 40:13

That vulnerable children and families in Contra Costa County would experience the transforming love of God through foster families and Support Friends who will be raised up in our partner church communities

Pray that teachers in our local schools would be aware of the unique needs children in foster care may have and that teachers would have the tools and knowledge needed to respond to these needs

That we will see a waiting list of foster families in Contra Costa County, rather than a waiting list of children in need of a home

Prayer – G U I D E

Day 26 – Kinship Caregivers

“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.” John 10:10

Pray that their relationships with the children they take in will flourish and bring security and hope into the children’s lives

Pray for wisdom as they prepare their home and hearts

Pray they would have the emotional, spiritual, financial, and other resources to provide a safe home for children from their family

Day 27 – Medical and Mental Health Care Professionals

“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 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.

Pray that children in foster care and biological parents would be able to have access to quality mental health services to address hard issues so reunification can be achieved

Pray that doctors and psychiatrists would have wisdom when treating and prescribing medication for foster children and biological parents

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Day 28 - Solano County

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

That vulnerable children and families in Solano County would experience the transforming love of God through foster families and Support Friends who will be raised up in local Solano County church communities

Pray that teachers in our local schools would be aware of the unique needs children in foster care may have and that teachers would have the tools and knowledge needed to respond to these needs

That we will see a waiting list of foster families in Solano County, rather than a waiting list of children in need of a home

Day 29 - 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

Prayer — G U I D E —

Day 30 - Marin County

"The King will reply, "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

That vulnerable children and families in Marin County would experience the transforming love of God through foster families and Support Friends who will be raised up in local Marin County church communities

Pray that teachers in our local schools would be aware of the unique needs children in foster care may have and that teachers would have the tools and knowledge needed to respond to these needs

That we will see a waiting list of foster families in Marin County, rather than a waiting list of children in need of a home

Day 31 - Foster The City

"I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might." Ephesians 1:16-19

Thank God for how He is using Foster The City to raise up resource families and support friends in our community

Pray that Foster the City will continue to be a source of hope and help to social workers, foster children, and biological parents in our community

Pray for God to continue to provide volunteers, leaders, and finances for Foster The City

Prayer—G U I D E

We cannot thank you enough for partnering with us in asking God to move on behalf of families, churches, the foster care system and children in need. We know not a single word prayed fell to the ground. We serve a God who listens and acts on behalf of His people. Even now, the Lord is planning to act and move according to the prayer offered in line with His will! Prayer is truly one of the greatest works we can give ourselves to.

“The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.” Numbers 6:24-26

The Foster the City Team

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Prayer

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2022