

40 Day Prayer Journal

A Foster Care Devotional

A Resource Provided By:



www.fosterhopefamily.com

40-Day Devotional: Prayer Journal for Foster Care

This 40-day prayer journal is a spiritual journey to help you connect with God's heart for children in foster care. Each day includes a Bible verse, a short reflection, and questions to help you think and pray deeply—both on your own and with others.

You'll learn how foster care is not just a service but a way to show God's love, justice, and care for those in need. The devotional highlights scriptures like Psalm 68:5-6 and James 1:27, showing that God cares deeply for the lonely and the fatherless—and invites us to do the same.

How to Use It:

Set aside time each day to read, reflect, and pray. Use the personal and group questions to grow individually and together with others. If you're exploring foster care with your family, this guide can help start meaningful conversations.

How to Respond:

Let God guide your heart toward action—whether that means fostering, supporting foster families, mentoring a child, or simply praying. Small steps done in love can make a big difference.

Each day includes space for journaling your prayers and thoughts, helping you track what God is saying to you during this journey.

Day 1: God's Heart for the Vulnerable

Scripture: Psalm 68:5-6 – “A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows, is God in his holy dwelling. God sets the lonely in families, he leads out the prisoners with singing; but the rebellious live in a sun-scorched land.”

Reflection: The Bible opens a window into God's heart, revealing His deep care for those who are vulnerable—specifically, the fatherless and the lonely. In a world where children in foster care often feel abandoned or unseen, ***God positions Himself as their ultimate advocate and provider.*** The phrase “sets the lonely in families” is not a passive statement; it's an active declaration of God's desire to restore belonging.

Foster care and adoption are tangible expressions of this divine mission. When we welcome a child into our home, we participate in God's work of creating family where there was isolation. This is the starting point of our journey: *recognizing that foster care is not just a social service but a sacred calling to mirror God's fatherly love.*

As you begin, consider how this truth reshapes your understanding of ministry and your role in it. God's heart is not distant—He invites you to share in His compassion for the vulnerable.

Personal Reflection Question: How does knowing God is a father to the fatherless inspire you to consider your role in caring for vulnerable children?

Relational Reflection Question: Who in your life (family, friends, or church) can you talk to about how God's care for the fatherless might shape your community's approach to foster care?

Day 2: Called to Reflect God's Love

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

Reflection: Building on God's role as a father to the fatherless, we see that our ability to love flows directly from His love for us. The children in foster care often come from environments where love has been inconsistent or absent. ***When we open our hearts to them, we become conduits of God's initiating love***—a love that pursues, heals, and restores.

This verse reminds us that foster care is not about mustering our own strength to love but about allowing God's love to overflow through us. Imagine a child who has never felt safe or valued experiencing your home as a place of warmth and acceptance. This is the essence of foster care ministry: reflecting the love that God first showed us.

As you reflect today, consider how God's love for you empowers you to extend that same love to a child in need, creating a ripple effect of grace.

Personal Reflection Question: How can you let God's love for you overflow into loving a child who needs a family?

Relational Reflection Question: How can you and your family or community discuss ways to reflect God's love through practical acts of care for foster children?

Day 3: God's Adoption of Us

Scripture: Ephesians 1:5 – “He predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will.”

Reflection: Yesterday, we explored how God's love fuels our ability to love others. Today, we dive deeper into the concept of adoption, which is at the heart of God's redemptive plan.

Through Jesus, God adopts us into His family, not because we earned it, but because it delights Him. This divine adoption is the model for earthly adoption and foster care.

Children in foster care often carry the weight of rejection or abandonment, but through your care, they can experience a glimpse of God's unconditional acceptance. This truth challenges us to see every foster child as a potential member of God's eternal family, worthy of love and belonging.

As you ponder this, think about how your own adoption into God's family shapes your perspective on welcoming a child into your home, even temporarily. This is a calling to extend God's family to those who need it most.

Personal Reflection Question: How does being adopted by God change the way you view children in foster care?

Relational Reflection Question: How can you discuss with others in your faith community the connection between God's adoption of us and the call to foster or adopt?

Day 4: Caring for the Least of These

Scripture: Matthew 25:40 – “The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’”

Reflection: Building on the idea of divine adoption, Jesus takes it a step further by identifying Himself with the vulnerable. Children in foster care, often marginalized or forgotten, are among the “least of these.” ***When you provide a meal, a safe bed, or a listening ear to a foster child, Jesus says you’re doing it for Him.***

This elevates foster care from a charitable act to an act of worship. Imagine the profound reality: every diaper changed, every tear wiped, every moment of patience is a direct offering to Christ. This perspective transforms the daily grind of foster care into a holy privilege.

As you reflect, consider how seeing Jesus in every foster child might change your willingness to step into this ministry, even when it feels daunting.

Personal Reflection Question: How would your approach to foster care change if you saw every child as Jesus in disguise?

Relational Reflection Question: How can you and your loved ones explore the idea of serving Jesus through caring for foster children?

Day 5: The Call to Act

Scripture: James 1:27 – “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.”

Reflection: Recognizing ‘Jesus in the vulnerable’ compels us to action. James defines true faith not by words or rituals but by caring for those in distress, specifically orphans.

Foster care is a direct response to this call. It’s not enough to feel sympathy for children in need; ***God invites us to step into their lives with tangible care.*** This might mean becoming a foster parent, supporting a foster family, or advocating for systemic change.

The second part of the verse—keeping oneself unpolluted—reminds us to approach this ministry with pure motives, not seeking recognition but God’s glory.

As you reflect, consider how God might be calling you to move from compassion to action in the lives of foster children.

Personal Reflection Question: What is one practical step you can take to “look after” a child in distress?

Relational Reflection Question: Who can you talk to about taking practical steps together to support orphans through foster care or adoption?

Day 6: God's Compassion as Our Model

Scripture: Isaiah 54:10 – “Though the mountains be shaken and the hills be removed, yet my unfailing love for you will not be shaken nor my covenant of peace be removed,” says the Lord, who has compassion on you.”

Reflection: Yesterday's call to action is grounded in God's compassion, which we explored as our model. His love is unshakable, even when the world feels chaotic.

Children in foster care often come from environments of instability—broken homes, trauma, or uncertainty. Yet, ***God's covenant of peace offers a steady foundation.***

As foster parents or supporters, you can embody this compassionate, unwavering love by providing a stable home or consistent support. This ministry reflects God's heart, showing children that they are valued and safe, no matter their past.

Reflect on how God's steadfast compassion can guide your interactions with children who have known too little stability.

Personal Reflection Question: How can you show God's unfailing love to a child who has experienced instability?

Relational Reflection Question: How can you and your community discuss ways to model God's compassionate love for foster children?

Day 7: Trusting God's Strength

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 12:9 – “But he said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.’ Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me.”

Reflection: Compassion requires strength, but foster care can feel overwhelming.

Building on God’s compassion, we see that our weaknesses—doubts, fears, or feelings of inadequacy—are not barriers but opportunities for God’s power to shine.

Many hesitate to enter foster care because they feel unprepared or unequal to the task. Yet, God’s grace is sufficient, equipping us for what He calls us to do. Imagine relying on His strength to navigate a child’s challenging behaviors or to face the emotional weight of their story.

By embracing your weaknesses, you allow Christ’s power to work through you, making foster care a testimony of His grace.

Personal Reflection Question: What weaknesses do you need to surrender to God to step into foster care or adoption?

Relational Reflection Question: How can you share your fears or weaknesses with others to seek support for entering foster care ministry?

Day 8: A Heart for Hospitality

Scripture: Hebrews 13:2 – “Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it.”

Reflection: Trusting God’s strength opens the door to hospitality. Foster care is a profound act of welcoming strangers—children who may feel like outsiders—into your home and heart.

This hospitality mirrors God’s welcome of us into His family. ***Every child in foster care is a divine guest, carrying the image of God and the potential to teach us about His love.*** Hospitality doesn’t require perfection; it requires an open heart willing to share space, time, and love.

As you reflect, consider how fostering a child could transform your home into a sanctuary of God’s grace, where both you and the child encounter His presence.

Personal Reflection Question: How can you cultivate a heart of hospitality for children in foster care?

Relational Reflection Question: How can you discuss with your family the idea of opening your home to foster children as an act of hospitality?

Day 9: God's Faithfulness in Uncertainty

Scripture: Lamentations 3:22-23 – “Because of the Lord’s great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.”

Reflection: Hospitality can feel risky, especially in the unpredictable world of foster care. Building on yesterday’s theme, we see that God’s faithfulness sustains us through uncertainty.

Children may leave for reunification, behaviors may challenge us, or the system may frustrate us. Yet, God’s compassions are new every morning, offering fresh strength for each day. ***His faithfulness assures us that no effort in foster care is wasted.***

Reflect on a time when God’s faithfulness carried you through uncertainty, and consider how that same faithfulness can guide you in loving a child whose future is unclear.

Personal Reflection Question: How can God’s daily faithfulness help you face the uncertainties of foster care?

Relational Reflection Question: Who can you talk to about trusting God’s faithfulness in the uncertainties of foster care?

Day 10: Sacrificial Love

Scripture: John 15:13 – “Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.”

Reflection: God’s faithfulness empowers us to love sacrificially. Foster care often requires laying down personal comfort, time, and plans to prioritize a child’s needs.

Jesus’ example of ultimate sacrifice—giving His life—sets the standard for this love. In foster care, this might mean sleepless nights, emotional exhaustion, or adjusting your lifestyle to accommodate a child’s needs. Yet, this sacrifice reflects the heart of the gospel. Consider a foster child who has never experienced selfless love; ***your willingness to give of yourself could be their first encounter with Christ’s love.***

Reflect on how Jesus’ sacrifice inspires you to love without counting the cost.

Personal Reflection Question: What might you need to “lay down” to love a foster child sacrificially?

Relational Reflection Question: How can you discuss with others the sacrifices involved in foster care and how to support each other in making them?

Day 11: Building a Family

Scripture: Psalm 133:1 – “How good and pleasant it is when God’s people live together in unity!”

Reflection: Sacrificial love creates family, not just by biology but by choice and unity. Foster care and adoption redefine family, bringing together people who might not otherwise connect.

God delights in this unity, as it reflects His kingdom, where all are welcomed. ***Your home can become a place where a child experiences belonging, perhaps for the first time.*** This unity extends beyond your household to include birth families, social workers, and your church community, all working together to support a child.

Reflect on how fostering can build a sense of family that mirrors God’s inclusive love.

Personal Reflection Question: How can you create a sense of unity and belonging for a child in your care?

Relational Reflection Question: How can you and your family or community discuss creating a sense of belonging for foster children?

Day 12: God's Provision

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

Reflection: Building a family requires resources, but God promises to provide. Foster care can bring financial, emotional, or spiritual challenges, yet God's riches are limitless.

Whether it's patience for a difficult day, funds for extra expenses, or wisdom to navigate complex situations, He supplies what you need. ***This promise frees you to focus on loving children rather than worrying about limitations.***

Reflect on a time when God provided for you unexpectedly, and consider how trusting His provision can embolden you to step into foster care with confidence.

Personal Reflection Question: What needs are you hesitant to trust God to provide as you consider foster care?

Relational Reflection Question: How can you discuss with others the ways God has provided for your needs and how this applies to foster care?

Day 13: The Role of Community

Scripture: Galatians 6:2 – “Carry each other’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.”

Reflection: God’s provision often flows through community. ***Foster care is not a solo journey; it thrives with the support of friends, family, and church.***

By sharing burdens—whether through babysitting, meals, or prayer—your community becomes a family for foster families. This reflects Christ’s law of love, where we bear one another’s loads. Imagine a church rallying around a foster family, providing practical and emotional support. This collective effort magnifies God’s love, showing children they are valued by a broader family.

Reflect on how your community can become a vital part of your foster care ministry.

Personal Reflection Question: Who in your community could you invite to support you in foster care ministry?

Relational Reflection Question: How can you and your community brainstorm ways to share the burdens of foster care?

Day 14: Perseverance in Challenges

Scripture: Romans 5:3-4 – “Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope.”

Reflection: Community strengthens perseverance. Foster care brings challenges—emotional outbursts, systemic frustrations, or the pain of saying goodbye. Yet, God uses these difficulties to build perseverance, character, and hope.

Each challenge is an opportunity to grow in faith and to model resilience for a child. Consider a foster child watching you navigate hardship with grace; ***your perseverance can inspire them to hope for a better future.***

Reflect on how God has used past challenges to shape you, and consider how this equips you for the ups and downs of foster care.

Personal Reflection Question: How can you embrace challenges in foster care as opportunities for growth?

Relational Reflection Question: How can you discuss with others the challenges of foster care and how to persevere together?

Day 15: God's Restorative Love

Scripture: Joel 2:25 – “I will repay you for the years the locusts have eaten—the great locust and the young locust, the other locusts and the locust swarm—my great army that I sent among you.”

Reflection: Perseverance leads to restoration. Many foster children have lost years to trauma, neglect, or instability. ***God's promise in Joel is to restore what was taken.***

Through your love, stability, and care, you partner with God in this redemptive work. A child who has known loss can find healing in your home, whether through a kind word, a safe routine, or a listening ear. This restoration may not be immediate, but God's work is ongoing.

Reflect on how your role in a child's life can contribute to God's promise of renewal.

Personal Reflection Question: How can you trust God to bring restoration to a child's life through your care?

Relational Reflection Question: How can you and your loved ones discuss ways to support the restoration of a foster child's life?

Day 16: The Power of Presence

Scripture: Matthew 28:20 – “And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

Reflection: Restoration begins with presence. Jesus’ promise to be with us always is a model for foster care. Children in foster care often crave consistent, reliable adults who won’t abandon them.

Your presence—through tantrums, fears, or moments of joy—reflects God’s unwavering commitment. Simply being there, day after day, can provide the stability a child needs to heal.

Reflect on a time when someone’s presence made a difference in your life, and consider how you can offer that same gift to a foster child.

Personal Reflection Question: How can you be a consistent, loving presence for a child in foster care?

Relational Reflection Question: How can you discuss with your family the importance of consistent presence in a foster child’s life?

Day 17: Advocating for the Voiceless

Scripture: Proverbs 31:8-9 – “Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy.”

Reflection: Presence leads to advocacy. *Children in foster care often lack a voice in decisions that affect them.*

God calls us to speak up, ensuring their needs are met and their rights upheld. This might mean advocating for better services, supporting their education, or ensuring their story is heard. Advocacy is an extension of God’s justice, reflecting His heart for the marginalized.

Reflect on how you can use your voice to champion a child’s cause, whether in your home or in the broader system.

Personal Reflection Question: How can you advocate for a foster child’s needs in your community or system?

Relational Reflection Question: How can you and others discuss ways to advocate for foster children in your local community?

Day 18: The Gift of Time

Scripture: Ecclesiastes 3:1 – “There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens.”

Reflection: Advocacy requires time, and foster care demands patience. Healing and growth happen in God’s timing, not ours. **A child may need months or years to trust again, to heal from trauma, or to feel safe.**

Trusting God’s seasons allows you to love without rushing the process, giving children the space they need to grow.

Reflect on how surrendering your timeline to God can free you to focus on a child’s present needs rather than future outcomes.

Personal Reflection Question: How can you surrender your timeline to God’s in serving foster children?

Relational Reflection Question: How can you discuss with your family the importance of patience in the foster care journey?

Day 19: God's Heart for Justice

Scripture: Micah 6:8 – “He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.”

Reflection: Time aligns with justice. Foster care embodies God's call to act justly and love mercy.

By providing a safe home, advocating for a child's needs, or supporting reunification, you participate in God's mission to right wrongs. Walking humbly means recognizing that this work is not about your glory but God's.

Reflect on how balancing justice (ensuring a child's rights) and mercy (offering grace) can shape your approach to foster care ministry.

Personal Reflection Question: How can you balance justice and mercy in your approach to foster care?

Relational Reflection Question: How can you and your community explore ways to balance justice and mercy in supporting foster children?

Day 20: The Power of Prayer

Scripture: Philippians 4:6 – “Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.”

Reflection: Justice and mercy are fueled by prayer. Foster care can bring anxiety—about a child’s behavior, future, or your own capacity.

Yet, God invites us to bring these concerns to Him in prayer, trusting His peace to guide us. ***Praying for the children, their birth families, social workers, and yourself invites God’s wisdom and strength into the process.***

Reflect on how prayer can anchor your foster care journey, turning worries into opportunities for dependence on God.

Personal Reflection Question: What specific prayers can you offer for children in foster care today?

Relational Reflection Question: How can you and your loved ones commit to praying together for foster care ministry?

Day 21: God's Call to Courage

Scripture: Joshua 1:9 – “Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.”

Reflection: Prayer empowers courage. Foster care requires boldness to face challenges—whether opening your home, navigating complex emotions, or dealing with the system.

God's command to Joshua applies to you: His presence ensures you're never alone. ***Courage doesn't mean the absence of fear but moving forward despite it, trusting God's strength.***

Reflect on how God's presence can embolden you to step into this ministry with confidence.

Personal Reflection Question: What fears do you need God's courage to overcome in foster care ministry?

Relational Reflection Question: How can you discuss with others the fears you face and how to find courage together for foster care?

Day 22: Loving Without Expectation

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 13:7 – “It [love] always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.”

Reflection: Courage leads to selfless love. Foster care often involves loving children who may not stay or who may struggle to reciprocate.

God’s love, as described in Corinthians, perseveres without expecting reward.

This is the love foster parents are called to embody—protecting, hoping, and enduring through challenges.

Reflect on how loving without expectation can free you to serve a child purely for their sake, reflecting Christ’s unconditional love.

Personal Reflection Question: How can you love a foster child without expecting anything in return?

Relational Reflection Question: How can you and your family discuss the idea of loving foster children selflessly?

Day 23: God's Plan for Redemption

Scripture: Romans 8:28 – “And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.”

Reflection: Selfless love trusts God's redemptive plan. Foster care can bring pain—reunification, loss, or behavioral struggles—but God is working for good in every situation.

Your role in a child's life, however brief, is part of His larger story of redemption.

You may never witness the harvest, but your presence, prayers, and compassion are not wasted—they echo in a child's heart long after your time together ends. In surrendering the results to God, you can rest in the assurance that He is faithful to complete the work He begins.

Reflect on how trusting God's plan can give you peace, knowing that your love plants seeds for a child's future, even if you don't see the outcome.

Personal Reflection Question: How can you trust God's plan for a child's life, even when it's hard to see?

Relational Reflection Question: How can you discuss with others the hope of God's redemptive plan in foster care?

Day 24: The Joy of Obedience

Scripture: John 15:11 – “I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.”

Reflection: Trusting God’s plan brings joy. Obedience to His call in foster care fills us with His joy, even amid challenges.

This joy comes from aligning with God’s heart, knowing you’re participating in His work. It’s a deep, sustaining joy that transcends circumstances, rooted in the assurance that your obedience—however ordinary it may feel—is part of something eternal. When you walk in step with God’s purposes, even small acts of love carry eternal weight.

Reflect on a time when obedience to God brought you joy, and consider how fostering can be a source of deep fulfillment as you serve children in His name.

Personal Reflection Question: How have you experienced joy in serving others, and how might this apply to foster care?

Relational Reflection Question: How can you and your community share stories of joy in obedience to encourage foster care ministry?

Day 25: God's Heart for Unity

Scripture: John 17:21 – “That all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me.”

Reflection: Joy leads to unity. Foster care can unite families, churches, and communities in a shared mission to love vulnerable children.

Jesus prayed for unity, and your ministry can reflect this by bringing people together to support foster families. When people rally around a common purpose fueled by Christlike love, barriers break down, and diverse individuals become one in heart and mission.

This unity not only strengthens the support system for children but also becomes a powerful testimony of God's love to the watching world.

Reflect on how your involvement in foster care can foster unity, showing the world God's love through collective care.

Personal Reflection Question: How can you foster unity in your community through foster care ministry?

Relational Reflection Question: How can you discuss with others ways to build unity through foster care efforts?

Day 26: The Role of Forgiveness

Scripture: Colossians 3:13 – “Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.”

Reflection: Unity requires forgiveness. Foster care involves complex relationships—birth parents, social workers, or children who act out due to trauma. God’s forgiveness of us models how we forgive others, **creating space for healing and reconciliation.**

Extending grace in messy, emotionally charged situations invites God’s presence into the brokenness. Forgiveness doesn’t erase pain, but it opens the door for restoration and allows love to take root where resentment once grew.

Reflect on how forgiveness can transform your approach to foster care, allowing you to love without holding onto resentment.

Personal Reflection Question: Who in the foster care journey might you need to forgive to move forward in love?

Relational Reflection Question: How can you and your loved ones discuss the role of forgiveness in foster care relationships?

Day 27: God's Healing Power

Scripture: Psalm 147:3 – “He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.”

Reflection: Forgiveness opens the door to healing. ***Many foster children carry deep wounds from trauma or loss.*** As you offer love, stability, and a safe environment, you partner with God in His healing work.

This might mean celebrating small victories, like a child's first smile or a moment of trust. These seemingly small milestones are sacred moments—evidence that love is breaking through the walls built by pain. By showing consistent compassion, you become a tangible expression of God's grace, helping a child begin to believe that healing is possible.

Reflect on how your care can be a conduit for God's healing power in a child's life.

Personal Reflection Question: How can you create a safe space for a foster child to experience God's healing?

Relational Reflection Question: How can you discuss with others ways to support the healing process for foster children?

Day 28: The Call to Patience

Scripture: Galatians 5:22-23 – “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.”

Reflection: Healing requires patience, a fruit of the Spirit. Foster care demands forbearance as children process trauma or adjust to new environments. Patience means celebrating progress, however slow, and trusting God’s timing.

It means resisting the urge to fix everything quickly and instead offering steady presence, even when growth seems invisible. ***In these quiet moments of perseverance, you mirror God’s patient love***—a love that never gives up, even in the hardest seasons.

Reflect on how cultivating patience can help you reflect God’s gentle love to a child who needs it most.

Personal Reflection Question: How can you grow in patience as you care for a child with complex needs?

Relational Reflection Question: How can you and your community discuss strategies for practicing patience in foster care?

Day 29: God's Eternal Perspective

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 4:17-18 – “For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.”

Reflection: Patience is grounded in an eternal perspective. The challenges of foster care—disruptions, heartache, or exhaustion—are temporary, but their impact is eternal. ***Your love can shape a child's life forever***, planting seeds of faith and hope.

When viewed through God's lens, even the hardest days carry purpose beyond what we can see. Trust that your faithfulness, though often unseen, is building something lasting in the heart of a child and in the Kingdom of God.

Reflect on how focusing on the eternal can sustain you through the temporary struggles of foster care.

Personal Reflection Question: How does an eternal perspective change how you view the challenges of foster care?

Relational Reflection Question: How can you discuss with others the eternal impact of foster care ministry?

Day 30: The Power of Small Acts

Scripture: Zechariah 4:10 – “Who dares despise the day of small things, since the seven eyes of the Lord that range throughout the earth will rejoice when they see the chosen capstone in the hand of Zerubbabel?”

Reflection: An eternal perspective values small acts. A kind word, a bedtime story, or a safe routine may seem minor, but God rejoices in these efforts. ***Every small act of love in foster care matters***, shaping a child’s sense of worth and security.

These daily expressions of care build a foundation of trust, sending a message that the child is seen, valued, and loved. In God's hands, even the smallest gestures become part of a larger story of healing, redemption, and hope.

Reflect on how even the smallest gestures can reflect God’s love in a profound way.

Personal Reflection Question: What small act of love can you offer a foster child today?

Relational Reflection Question: How can you and your loved ones share ideas for small, meaningful acts of love in foster care?

Day 31: God's Call to Humility

Scripture: Philippians 2:3-4 – “Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.”

Reflection: Small acts are rooted in humility. Foster care requires putting a child's needs above your own, whether it's adjusting your schedule or prioritizing their emotional well-being.

By humbling yourself, you reflect Christ's servant heart, creating a safe space for children to thrive. True humility lets go of the need for recognition and embraces the quiet, behind-the-scenes work of love. In doing so, you create an atmosphere where children can begin to trust, heal, and grow in the shelter of selfless care.

Reflect on how humility can shape your approach to foster care, making it about the child, not yourself.

Personal Reflection Question: How can you practice humility in your interactions with foster children or their families?

Relational Reflection Question: How can you discuss with others the importance of humility in foster care ministry?

Day 32: The Beauty of Diversity

Scripture: Revelation 7:9 – “After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb.”

Reflection: Humility embraces diversity. Foster care often brings together people from different backgrounds—culturally, racially, or socially. God’s kingdom is diverse, and your home can reflect this by welcoming children of all stories and heritages.

Celebrating their unique background honors God’s creative design. It also communicates to each child that they are deeply valued just as they are, fostering a sense of identity and belonging. By embracing differences with humility and love, you model the inviting heart of Christ and create a space where unity is built through respect and understanding.

Reflect on how embracing diversity in foster care can enrich your life and faith.

Personal Reflection Question: How can you celebrate the unique background of a foster child in your care?

Relational Reflection Question: How can you and your community discuss embracing diversity through foster care?

Day 33: God's Strength in Community

Scripture: Ecclesiastes 4:12 – “Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.”

Reflection: Diversity strengthens community. Foster care thrives with the support of others—friends, church, or agencies.

God's design for community ensures you're not alone in this calling. A strong support network can provide practical help, emotional encouragement, and spiritual strength. Each person brings unique gifts and perspectives that, when united, create a rich tapestry of support and wisdom.

Leaning into this diversity allows you to carry burdens together and reflect the body of Christ in action.

Reflect on how building a community around foster care can amplify your impact and reflect God's collaborative heart.

Personal Reflection Question: How can you build a stronger support network for your foster care journey?

Relational Reflection Question: How can you and others brainstorm ways to create a supportive community for foster families?

Day 34: The Call to Faithfulness

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 4:2 – “Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful.”

Reflection: Community supports faithfulness. God entrusts you with the care of His children, and **He calls you to be faithful**, whether for a short season or a lifetime. Faithfulness means showing up consistently, even when it's hard, and trusting God with the outcomes.

It's choosing love over convenience and commitment over comfort, day after day. With a supportive community surrounding you, you are strengthened to persevere, reminded that you are not walking this journey alone, and encouraged to keep going when your strength feels depleted.

Reflect on how you can remain steadfast in your commitment to foster care, honoring the trust God has given you.

Personal Reflection Question: How can you remain faithful to God's call in foster care, even when it's difficult?

Relational Reflection Question: How can you discuss with others the importance of faithfulness in foster care ministry?

Day 35: God's Promise of Peace

Scripture: John 16:33 – “I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”

Reflection: Faithfulness brings peace. Foster care will have troubles—disruptions, heartache, or uncertainty—but Jesus promises peace that surpasses circumstances.

His victory over the world assures us that no challenge is too great. When you remain faithful in the midst of chaos, you anchor your heart in God's unshakable promises.

This peace doesn't always remove the storm, but it steadies you within it, reminding you that God is in control and working all things together for good.

Reflect on how resting in Christ's peace can sustain you through the ups and downs of foster care.

Personal Reflection Question: How can you find peace in Christ amid the challenges of foster care?

Relational Reflection Question: How can you and your loved ones discuss finding peace in Christ while navigating foster care challenges?

Day 36: The Power of Hope

Scripture: Romans 15:13 – “May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.”

Reflection: Peace fuels hope. Foster children need hope for a better future, and your trust in God can inspire them to believe in possibilities beyond their past. ***By embodying hope, you show them that God has a plan for their lives.***

Your steady presence, even in uncertainty, becomes a living testimony that brokenness is not the end of their story. As they see your hope in action, they begin to imagine new possibilities for themselves—possibilities rooted in healing, purpose, and a future shaped by God’s love.

Reflect on how your faith can overflow with hope, becoming a beacon for a child in need.

Personal Reflection Question: How can you share God’s hope with a foster child in a tangible way?

Relational Reflection Question: How can you discuss with others ways to inspire hope in foster children?

Day 37: God's Call to Mentor

Scripture: Titus 2:7-8 – “In everything set them an example by doing what is good. In your teaching show integrity, seriousness and soundness of speech that cannot be condemned.”

Reflection: Hope is shared through mentoring. Foster children need adults who model goodness, integrity, and faith. Consistent mentorship provides a stable relationship where trust can grow, and where children can see what a healthy, God-centered life looks like.

Through patient guidance and authentic care, mentors help shape a child's sense of identity, purpose, and hope for the future.

Your life can be a living example, guiding them toward a life of purpose. Whether it's teaching life skills or showing them God's love, your mentorship can shape their future.

Reflect on how you can be a positive influence in a foster child's life.

Personal Reflection Question: How can you be a positive example for a foster child in your care?

Relational Reflection Question: How can you and your community discuss mentoring foster children effectively?

Day 38: The Joy of Partnership

Scripture: Philippians 1:5 – “Because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now.”

Reflection: Mentoring, as explored yesterday, thrives in partnership. Foster care is not a solitary endeavor but a collaborative mission that reflects the gospel’s call to unity. When you partner with birth parents, social workers, foster care agencies, or your church community, you create a network of care that amplifies God’s love for vulnerable children.

This partnership mirrors the early church’s commitment to sharing the gospel together, as Paul celebrates in Philippians. Each person involved—whether providing respite care, praying for a child’s healing, or advocating for better services—contributes to a child’s sense of worth and belonging. Imagine a foster child seeing a community rally around them; it communicates that they are not alone but cherished by many.

This collaboration also lightens the load for foster families, reminding you that God’s work is shared.

As you reflect today, consider how you can invite others into this partnership, creating a web of support that reflects God’s heart for community and love.

Personal Reflection Question: Who can you invite to partner with you in supporting a foster child’s journey, and how might their involvement make a difference?

Relational Reflection Question: How can you and your community discuss practical ways to partner together in foster care ministry, such as providing meals, respite care, or prayer support?

Day 39: Hearing God's Voice for Foster Care

Scripture: John 10:27 – “My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.”

Reflection: Building on the joy of partnership, today we focus on listening to God's voice as He speaks to us about foster care.

Jesus describes His followers as sheep who recognize and follow His voice, a voice that guides with love and purpose. In the context of foster care, ***God may be speaking to you about opening your home***, supporting a foster family, or advocating for systemic change. His voice might come through scripture, prayer, a sermon, or even a child's story that stirs your heart. For some, God's call is clear and bold, urging them to become foster parents.

For others, it's a gentle nudge to provide practical support, like mentoring or offering resources. Listening requires stillness and trust, allowing God to align your heart with His compassion for vulnerable children.

Reflect on what God might be saying to you about foster care—perhaps a specific step or a broader vision—and how you can respond in faith.

Personal Reflection Question: What is God saying to you about your role in foster care, and how can you respond to His voice with obedience?

Relational Reflection Question: How can you and your family or faith community create space to listen for God's guidance together regarding foster care ministry?

Day 40: Responding to God's Call for Foster Care

Scripture: Isaiah 6:8 – “Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, ‘Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?’ And I said, ‘Here am I. Send me!’”

Reflection: Yesterday, we explored listening to God's voice; today, we focus on responding to His call.

In Isaiah, God seeks someone to carry out His mission, and Isaiah responds with bold willingness. Foster care is a divine invitation to say, “Here am I. Send me!” ***God may call you to foster a child, adopt, or support foster families through prayer, resources,*** or advocacy. Each response is a step toward fulfilling His heart for the fatherless. This call is not about your strength but your availability—trusting God to equip you for the journey.

As you conclude this 40-day devotional, reflect on how God has spoken to you about foster care. Your “yes” to His call, however big or small, joins you with countless others in a movement to love and restore vulnerable children, reflecting God's kingdom on earth.

Personal Reflection Question: How will you respond to God's call to engage in foster care, whether through fostering, adoption, or support?

Relational Reflection Question: How can you and your community discuss and commit to responding to God's call for foster care, taking practical steps together?

What Will You Do Now?

As you complete this 40-day journey, you've explored God's heart for the vulnerable, His call to love sacrificially, and His invitation to partner in His redemptive work through foster care and adoption. From Psalm 68:5-6, where God is a father to the fatherless, to Isaiah 6:8, where He seeks those willing to say, "Here am I. Send me!" you've seen how foster care reflects His kingdom. Each day has built toward a deeper understanding of your role in this sacred calling—whether fostering, adopting, or supporting those who do.

Now, the question is: ***What will you do now?*** Reflect on how God has spoken to you. Has He stirred your heart to open your home to a child? To mentor, advocate, or provide respite care? Perhaps He's called you to rally your church to support foster families or to pray fervently for children in need. No step is too small—every act of love, from a kind word to a lifelong commitment, reflects God's heart.

Take a moment to write down one specific action you feel led to take. It might be contacting a foster care agency, discussing with your family how to support a foster child, or organizing a community effort to provide resources. Share this commitment with a trusted friend, family member, or faith community to stay accountable. As you step forward, trust God's strength, provision, and peace to guide you, knowing that your "yes" to His call joins you with others in a movement to bring hope and healing to vulnerable children.

Prayer: Lord, thank You for revealing Your heart for foster care and adoption. Guide me as I respond to Your call, whether through fostering, supporting, or advocating. Give me courage, wisdom, and love to reflect Your care for the fatherless. May my actions honor You and bring hope to children in need. Amen.