

praying for a prodigal (part 2)

"for this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found." luke 15:24

4. pray for an opportunity to share your testimony  
many parents forget that their own testimony can have a big impact on their children. the key is to find the right time and the right way to share it.

pray for opportunities to share how God has moved through your life and how He ultimately brought you to know the Savior. be honest about your sinful condition and how Jesus nailed those sins to the cross. keep your testimony simple enough that your child will listen, but don't hold back on how your relationship with God has made all the difference. sometimes, by painting the picture of your own journey, your children will begin thinking about their own journey with God.

here are a couple of conversation starters that might help open the door to share your testimony:

"i know you are struggling with your faith journey right now, and i understand. each of us in on our own journey with God. have i ever shared my testimony with you?"

"it might seem like i've always had a relationship with God, but that wasn't always the case. i used to struggle with my beliefs. did you know that? here is how the Lord finally reached my heart ..."

a suggested prayer:

Heavenly Father, please show me when and how to share

my testimony with my child. help me to have the words to speak so that i don't lose their attention. i pray for my child to have open ears to hear what i am saying, that they might consider my journey, and, in turn, examine their own. my hope is that they will see how You have worked in my life and how You long to work in theirs. thank You, Lord, for saving me. i pray salvation for my children as well. lead me to share my story with them with the purpose of guiding them towards You. in Jesus' name, amen.

## 5. pray for God's will to be done

one of the most comforting verses for parents, in waiting for their children to enter into a relationship with God, is found in 2 Peter 3:9. "the Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. instead He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance."

the Lord is not slow in keeping His promises. parents can rest assured that God longs for their children come to repentance and receive Jesus as their Lord and Savior. praying for God's will to be done is one of the best prayers you can pray!

a suggested prayer:

almighty God, more than any prayer i can offer for my child, i pray for Your will to be done. i release all my doubts, fears, and worries to You. i know that You love my child more than i could ever love them. they are Your beloved creation. You fashioned them and breathed life into them. i trust You to accomplish Your divine purpose in and through them. help me,

Lord, to always submit to Your timing, Your plans, and Your will. above my own desires to see my children have a relationship with You, help me surrender them fully into Your hands. thank You, God, for working everything out for my good because i love You and have been called according to Your purpose. i trust Your good, pleasing, and perfect will today. in Jesus' name, amen.

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good news mom and dad: that sweet child you've held tight against your chest, guided through teeth-grinding math assignments, and loved when they acted so unlovable – they have a Savior ready to wipe away their every tear (and it's not you). but apart from Holy Spirit, there's little chance that any one person will successfully force conviction and repentance onto a child who doesn't believe they need it. we're all fallen, and not one of us is promised tomorrow. if faith the size of a mustard seed can move mountains, how much more can the power of God's love set all His people free?

we are presented with an opportunity to trust God more? how can we grow in our awareness of His love for us, or possibly serving others? practice today seeing every circumstance as an opportunity to have a positive attitude.

none of us deserve the grace and mercy of Jesus Christ crucified. so don't wait to speak words of love over your son and daughter until they can "earn it," "straighten up," or "walk the line."

now, trust in the Lord and His goodness. there is

always perfect timing in His ways. confess the good confession made by Joshua in jos 24:17. "as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."