

Praying Across the Miles



Devotions for
Parents & Children
Separated by Distance



I Love...



This is _____

Prayers for the Week

These prayers are designed for the deployed parent and the child at home. Read these prayers at the end of the day and be comforted by knowing that your loved one is praying for the same thing. As you read these prayers, place the name of your loved one in the blank.

Sunday

Gracious God, you can do anything. Please bring peace into the world. Help the leaders of all of the countries to do the right thing - to help children live in safety, to help families live together in joy, and to help grown-ups work together for justice for everyone. *Amen.*

Monday

O God, I know you love us like a parent. My family has been separated for a time. I know that your hands can hold us all together and keep us safe. Please take care of _____ who I miss with all my heart. Protect _____ from all dangers and draw _____ nearer to you until we can be together again. In Jesus' name we pray. *Amen.*

Tuesday

Loving God, you have created a wide and wonderful world but sometimes the people in your world don't always get along. Fill the world with your love and guide us so that wars will end and all people can live in peace. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace. *Amen.*

Wednesday

Dear God, sometimes I am afraid. I am afraid because my family is not together. I am afraid because things are different. I am afraid that things will never be the same. Please make me strong and give me courage to face my fears. Keep my _____ safe so I don't need to worry. Help me face the hard times in my life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Thursday

O God of all people, we know that Jesus told us to love our enemies, but sometimes it is hard to do. Sometimes we don't want to. Help us begin to know each other so that all hatred, cruelty, and revenge could end and everyone can stand together in love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Friday

God of all, everybody is part of your family. Protect all the families in the world especially those whose homes have been destroyed by war. Comfort those who are hurt or lonely and bless those who care for them. Bless all families that they may be united in love and affection; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Saturday

Gracious God, you know everything about us and everything we need before we ask: stay with me while I am not with _____ who I love. Even though we are sad to be apart, help us to keep going in our daily lives. Give us hope that we will be together soon; through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Prayers of the Child

For the Safe Keeping of my Parent

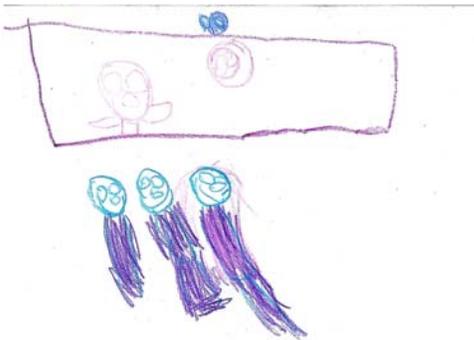
Loving God, I know that you love everyone in the world including _____ who is away. Please protect _____ who I love, no matter where we are, and bring _____ safely home. *Amen.*

For Understanding

Be patient with me, God. Today I was not perfect. I am not sure why I made so many mistakes. Part of me is angry that my parent is gone; part of me is worried. I am a little confused, too. I know that my parent is proud to serve our country, and I am proud, too. But some times I just get very lonely. So be patient with me, God, and give me patience, too. *Amen.*

For My Caretaker

Caring God, you know what it is to love your children. Be with _____ who cares for me while my parent is away. Give _____ the energy to meet the challenges and joys of caring for me. Help me to behave as you expect me to. I am very thankful that _____ is here with me. Help us to live together as a loving family. *Amen.*



"Skyping with my Daddy"
Eliza 4 yrs old

Prayers of the Deployed Parent

For My Family

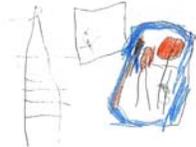
O God, guardian of all people and nations, protect my family while I am away. Be with them as they go about their daily routine. Give them patience with each other and knowledge that I love and miss them greatly. Guide them along the path that you would have them follow. Fill their days with tranquility and peace. And when my tour is over, re-unite us and fill our home with your love that we may each be strengthened as individuals and as a family devoted to you.
Amen.

For Spouse

Blessed God, you have lifted up my heart in gladness in the gift of _____, my *wife*. Thank you for the warm thoughts of *her* that bring cheer and comfort far from home. Lift up *her* heart also with the sure knowledge of my love. Watch over *her* going out and *her* coming in., and keep *her* in safety and hope until we meet again. *Amen.*

For Loved One

God your love is better known to me because of the love of _____ for which I give you great thanks. Watch over *her* and keep *him*; encourage *his* heart, help *him* trust in my love and in yours. Confirm us in faithfulness, buttress our patience, enliven our hope, enliven our hope, deepen our connection, even while we are apart. Let our love be fortified by yours. *Amen.*



Me Waiting for Daddy
Victoria 4 yrs old

In Anxiety for Loved Ones Out of Touch in a Time of Trouble

God whose watchful eye is over all, whose love never ceases: give your strong help and comfort; however it might be needed by those I love. Stand beside them in trouble, give them firm and hopeful hearts, keep the knowledge of our love a wellspring of consolation to them and to me, and help me to hold in mind that your Spirit of compassion and kindness stirs many to help where others are in need. I pray in your Holy Name. *Amen.*

If I Forget to Pray

If there is a moment in the days to come when I am in danger and have no time to call on your help, God my Defender, be with me then. In the instant of need, in the flash of gratitude for trouble averted, in the crisis of confusion, in sudden fear, in the moment of relief and safety, when I forget to pray, still hear my prayer. *Amen.*

Thanksgiving for Comrades

Good God, I give thanks for the courage of these brothers and sisters in arms. For the strength of their backs and their wills, for their grit and their trustiness, for their spirit and determination, for their sense and their skill, I give you thanks. May I be to them as good a comrade as they have been to me, and may your strong arm defend and empower us daily. *Amen.*

For Peace Among Nations

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, guide the nations of the world into the way of justice and truth, and establish among them that peace which is the fruit of righteousness, that they may become the kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

Prayers for the Branches of Our Armed Forces



Air Force Prayer

O God, who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, watch over and protect the men and women of our country who maintain and fly planes. Give them courage and skill as they do their jobs. May your left hand lead them, and your right hand hold them up through all that is holy. *Amen.*

Prayer for the Army



I ask You loving God to keep a watchful eye over each and every soldier. Give them courage and skill as they do their jobs in deserts, mountains, jungles and fields. May your hand guide them as they defend our freedom. *Amen.*



Coast Guard Prayer

O God, bless the keepers of the lights as they search the seas for those in trouble from storm, shipwreck or battle. Be a light to them as they stand guard over our country's coastlines. *Amen.*

United States Marine Corps Prayer



Lord, stand beside all Marines who have answered the call to defend our freedom and liberty. Help them to serve honorably. Give them courage, strength and skill. We pray they hear your voice and they would always be faithful to you. *Amen.*



Navy Prayer

O God, who rules the raging of the waters, preserve the Navy from the dangers of the sea and from the hazards of war. Give them courage and skills as they serve on land and sea and sky. May your left hand lead them and your right hand hold them up through all that is holy. *Amen.*

Draw a picture of your loved one in their military uniform.

You are invited to write your own prayer:

Where in the World?



Place a heart where you live and a heart where your parent is and draw a line to connect your hearts.

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