

Praying for the Prodigals

NAD Reconnecting Ministries Advisory Prayer Ideas

Prayer is powerful. God works miracles through prayer. And God works miracles through actions that are prompted by prayer. The parable of the prodigal son tells us how important it is to God to reconnect with His children who have wandered away from home. Following are 15 specific ways to pray for people to be reconnected with God's church family.

1. Designate one day a month as "Reconnecting Day of Prayer." Luke 15 tells the story of three things that were lost: a sheep, a coin, and a son. All were found then, and all can be found now!
2. Pray that every congregation would form a small group and use the new book, [An Indescribable Welcome Home](#); that they would read, discuss and apply the reconnecting concepts presented.
3. Pray that the Holy Spirit would call forth a network in local churches who have the gift of non-anxious listening and conversing with hurting people who might have non-standard ideas, feelings, and faith.
4. Pray that we make sure every church members has at least one meaningful way to "build up the body" using his or her unique spiritual gift mix. People who feel "connected" will be less likely to leave.
5. Pray that God would touch our active members' hearts to be willing to take time out of their busy lives to touch base (without growing weary) with the disconnected in winsome ways.
6. Pray that the Holy Spirit will show us how to demonstrate, without preaching, the simple fact that God loves the disconnected even when they are angry with God. God has big shoulders.
7. Pray that we become more willing to open the doors of the church to Celebrate Recovery groups for missing members struggling with addictions. Then pray for those who shame people who attend.
8. Pray that we would empower the reconnecting ministries of youth and young adults. And that we would make ourselves available to advocate, equip, involve, and cooperate with them in this ministry.

9. Pray for the parents whose adult children have chosen to leave the church. That any guilt or grief they might have about this decision will be replaced with love and acceptance for their sons and daughters.

10. Pray that God would prompt us to pay attention to who might be missing at church, and seek them out. Even more importantly, engage with them when it appears that they are in the process of leaving.

11. Pray that we will be honest enough to ask ourselves the question: "What is it about me that might cause someone to want to leave the church?" Then pray that God gives us the courage to correct it.

12. Pray that God would help us to honestly answer this question: "Is our church a place where a previously disconnected person can return and find it be a city of refuge, a safe place?"

13. Pray that we would daily be reminded what Jesus said, "Let any one of you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her" ; that I would drop my stones and walk away.

14. Pray we won't wait for the "lost sheep" to find their way home. That we will follow Jesus' example and search until each one is found. And if any one needs to be carried home, we will gladly do so.

15. And should a disconnected one return, that we would welcome him or her home the way the father did the prodigal son: with unbelievable love, acceptance, forgiveness and celebration!