

## **Effective Intercessory Prayer for the Prodigals in Your Life**

Taught by Ruth Rousu, [Harvest Vineyard Christian Fellowship](#), Alberta, Canada  
- October 1997

**Luke 15:11-32 (NIV)** *"There was a man who had two sons. The younger one said to his father, "Father, give me my share of the estate." So he divided his property between them.*

*"Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need.*

*So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything. "When he came to his senses, he said, "How many of my father's hired men have food to spare, and here I am starving to death!*

*I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired men."*

*So he got up and went to his father. "But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him. "The son said to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son."*

*"But the father said to his servants, "Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found." So they began to celebrate.*

*"Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. Your brother has come," he replied, "and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound."*

*"The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. But he answered his father, "Look! All these years I've been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!"*

*"My son," the father said, "you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found."*

### **What Is A Prodigal And How Did They Become A Prodigal?**

*A prodigal is a Covenant son. Someone who has already accepted the Lord as Saviour, and for whatever reason, walked away. Some of the reasons might be:*

*They were wounded by the body of Christ*

*Children of pastors and elders and notorious for becoming prodigals because they often see things that go on behind the scenes of the church. This often leads to disillusionment.*

*They were not firmly grounded in the word when they first accepted the Lord*

*Strategies for Prayer*

**Approach the Father** in that positional place of covenant that the prodigal has with Him.

*Remind the Lord that the prodigal is one of his children, and that He is the Father of the Lost. Ask the Lord to go rescue him as a shepherd rescues a lamb that strays from the flock.*

**Pray for supernatural love.**

*Pray for a love that would be open and warm to the prodigals even when they are still in sin. Love does not mean condoning their actions however. Pray from the position of love, not the position of judgment and anger.*

**Pray for the Grace to let go of the prodigal.**

*The prodigals father let the son go. He didn't lay a religious guilt trip or bash with the bible, but let the prodigal go. Pray for the parents of prodigals that they have the grace to let them go. Pray for grace not to lay judgment on the prodigals. Pray for grace to keep your mouth shut and your heart open with love and compassion. Pray for grace to not speak with a mouth that is critical or judgmental.*

**Pray for grace and endurance to pray for the prodigals.**

*It can take years to see the fruit of intercession for the prodigals.*

**Pray for famine.**

*Pray that whatever or whoever they are placing their trust in, outside of Jesus would dry up. Pray for disillusionment towards the very things that once drew them and held them captive. Pray that what once brought them pleasure would be dry and barren to them. Pray that the novelty will wear off.*

**Pray for holy hunger or holy homesickness.**

*"Oh I remember what it was like to be in fellowship with God, the sweetness of our relationship." Pray that they would long for the cleansing relationship they once had with the Father.*

**Pray he would come to himself.**

*Pray he would realize something is wrong.*

*Pray for his eyes to be open to the truth of his situation, and pray against the delusion the enemy would try to bring him.*

**Pray for gifts of repentance.**

*"I will arise and go to my Father". Repentance is a gift.. It brings life and freedom. Repentance is breakthrough and deliverance.*

**Pray that the prodigal will have the ability to receive the grace of God.**

*Pray that the prodigal would be able to receive the Father's love and forgiveness. Some of the prodigals may have lived very immoral lives and they can't imagine the Father ever wanting them back. They feel they have crossed some sort of line that the Lord would not be able to bless them again.*

**Pray that the Lord will pour out his riches when the prodigal returns.**

*Ask the Lord to dump on him blessings of every kind. That the Lord would lavish His love on the prodigal. Pray that when he returns that the prodigal will receive blessing upon blessing.... Spiritually, emotionally, physically, and financially.*

**Pray for the elder son.**

*The church (the elder brother) will need the Lord to prepare their hearts to receive the prodigals back. Pray that when the prodigals come home, judgmental attitudes toward them would be gone. Pray against jealousy and envy as God's blessing pours on the prodigal. Pray for the grace that when the prodigals are blessed that those in the church would not hold envy, but feel excited. Pray for financial blessing upon them, spiritual blessing, that they would lead many to the Lord. God does not show partiality. If the blessing comes to the prodigal it will come to the other children too!*

**Pray for those raised in church.**

*Pray that they will have the grace to accept those who are not quite so polished. Pray that the prodigals who have literally lived on the streets would be loved, bad manners, rough edges and all, into total wholeness*

*Used by permission August 2006~Paula Stern*