Prayer Gathering Guide



FOSTER THE CITY

This document can be used as a guide for church leaders, Advocates, or small group leaders to start a prayer group:

How to Recruit Participants

Building a prayer community around foster care starts with inviting the right people in the right way. Here's how:

Motivate Church Families Who Are Not Ready to Foster

- Speak to the why: Share the Biblical call to care for the vulnerable (James 1:27). Let them know that prayer is an essential foundation for the ministry.
- Offer a clear role: Invite people who have filled out a next step card but have not been to an Interest Meeting, or people who have volunteered for a past foster care related event and are not taking other active next steps.
- Testimonies help: Feature stories from other prayer group members who began as intercessors and are now actively fostering or supporting foster care in various capacities.

Leverage Existing Small Groups

- Ask small group leaders in your church if you can visit for 5 minutes to invite their members to a special Foster Care Prayer Gathering.
- Suggest they "sponsor" a prayer meeting as a service project or supplement their own group content.
- Provide ready-made prayer guides and agendas (see Section 2) to make it easy to host.

Reconnect with Past One-Time Volunteers

- Reach out personally: Send a follow-up text/email after events like backpack/clothing drives, social worker appreciation gift assemblies, or holiday donations.
- Invite them with language like: "You've already made a difference—would you join us in covering children in foster care and families in prayer this month/season?"
- Offer a no-pressure, one-time prayer night to let them try it out.

How to Format the Prayer Meeting Agenda

Creating a warm, intentional, Spirit-led space makes all the difference.

Sample Agenda (30–50 mins)

TIME	ACTIVITY
0:00–0:10	Welcome & Optional Introductions - Share names and why you came (only for the first time meeting)
0:10–0:15	Foster Care 101 or Ministry Update – Share stories or stats*
0:15–0:20	Devotional or Scripture Reading* – Center hearts on God's words
0:20–0:35	Prayer Time – Share prayer requests. Let people volunteer to pray for items on the list. If more than 4 people use break-out rooms.
0:35–0:45	Optional Study Segment – Use Foster the City's small group material*
0:45–0:50	Benediction – Share a prayer of blessing and/or upcoming events

*For statistics, helpful scriptures and small group material and more, please check out our Church Resource Kit at www.fosterthecity.org/churchresources.

Consistency is Key

Foster care is a long road. Your prayer ministry helps carry the weight.
Here's how to stay faithful and energized:

"Long obedience in the same direction bears fruit." – *Eugene Peterson*

Build a Foundation

- Make the group monthly or biweekly—same day/time/location to create rhythm.
- Use a shared calendar invite, Group chat/WhatsApp to remind people and share updates.

Encourage Long-Term Commitment

- Remind your team that prayer is ministry work. Faithfulness matters.
- Use stories/testimonies to show how God is moving.

Appreciate Your Prayer Warriors

- Annual Gifts: Simple swag like journals, tote bags, or Foster the City t-shirts.
- Summer Meetups: Host a casual breakfast, BBQ or picnic.
- Serve Together: Plan a group service opportunity like writing notes for social workers or volunteering for a picnic/Christmas party for foster families.

Stay Connected with Foster the City

Don’t do this alone—plug into the wider movement!

Join the FTC Prayer Network

- Sign up your group for updates and monthly prayer requests through this link.

Host Events to Grow Engagement

- Virtual/In-Person Movie Night: Show a foster-care-themed film like Sound of Hope—invite friends!
- Attend Interest Meetings: Great next step for people wanting to learn more.
- Be an Advocate +1: Encourage prayer group members to consider being the co-advocate with you!

Final Word

Whether your group is 3 people or 30, prayer is powerful and necessary. Your faithfulness creates spiritual covering for children in care, foster families, and the Church.
Keep sowing seeds in prayer—God is the one who grows the harvest.

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🔗 Resources

- Foster the City Website (https://www.fosterthecity.org/)
- FTC Church Resource Kit (www.fosterthecity.org/churchresources)
- Foster Care Prayer Guide (see Church Resource Kit link above)