

Encouraging Bible Verses about Prodigal Children

For Grandparents Holding Hope in Prayer

Praying for a prodigal child or grandchild can feel like a long and quiet journey. There are days filled with hope, and days when waiting feels heavy.

These Bible verses were gathered to offer comfort and reassurance during those moments. They remind us that God sees our loved ones, hears every prayer, and is always at work—even when we cannot see it.

For When You are Waiting

John 6:44 NIV

No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws them, and I will raise them up at the last day.

Jeremiah 24:7 ESV

I will give them a heart to know me, that I am the LORD, and they shall be my people and I will be their God, for they shall return to me with their whole heart.

Proverbs 22:6 NKJV

Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.

For When You are Praying

John 3:16 NIV:

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

2 Peter 3:9 ESV

The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.

Romans 8:38-39 ESV

For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

James 5:19 NIV

My brothers and sisters, if one of you should wander from the truth and someone should bring that person back, remember this: Whoever turns a sinner from the error of their way will save them from death and cover over a multitude of sins.

When You Need Hope

Psalm 139:7-8 ESV

Where shall I go from your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from your presence? If I ascend to heaven, you are there! If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there!

Ezekial 34:11-12 ESV

For thus says the Lord God: Behold, I, I myself will search for my sheep and will seek them out. As a shepherd seeks out his flock when he is among his sheep that have been scattered, so will I seek out my sheep, and I will rescue them from all places where they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness.

Luke 19:10 NKJV

“for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.”

Jeremiah 32:27 ESV

Behold, I am the Lord, the God of all flesh. Is anything too hard for me?

Trusting in God's Timing

Joel 2:25 NIV

I will repay you for the years the locusts have eaten—the great locust and the young locust, the other locusts and the locust swarm— my great army that I sent among you.

Isaiah 43:6 ESV

I will say to the north, Give up,
and to the south, Do not withhold;
bring my sons from afar
and my daughters from the end of the earth,

Isaiah 44:22 ESV

I have blotted out your transgressions like a cloud
and your sins like mist;
return to me, for I have redeemed you.

Isaiah 49:16 NKJV

See, I have inscribed you on the palms of My hands;
Your walls are continually before Me.

The Parable of the Prodigal Son

11 Jesus continued: "There was a man who had two sons. 12 The younger one said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the estate.' So he divided his property between them.

13 "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. 14 After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. 15 So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. 16 He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.

17 "When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! 18 I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. 19 I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.' 20 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.

21 "The son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.'

22 "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. 23 Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. 24 For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' So they began to celebrate.