

Praying for Unsaved Friends and Family

God desires everyone to know Him. Jesus said in His Word that the whole reason He left heaven for earth was to seek and save the lost (Luke 19:10). This was such a big deal that He said He would leave the 99 saved to go after the one who doesn't know Him (Luke 15:4). Therefore, as followers of Jesus, we are called to partner with Him praying for those who don't know Him to come and know Him (2 Corinthians 5:20).

Ask the Father to Draw Them to Jesus

No one can change a heart...except God. We were dead, and He is the one who makes us alive (Eph 2:1-4). Therefore, we need to be faithful in praying that the Father would draw to himself those He has placed in our hearts.

John 6:44

No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him...

Just begin to think about the people in your life who are far from God, and ask God to draw them to Jesus. It's helpful to write down their names, and be persistent in praying for them.

Ask the Father to Give Them Eyes to See

The truth can be right in front of us, but we don't see it because something is in the way blocking our view of God. The god of this age (the Devil) has blinded unbelievers. We can pray against the work of the enemy and for the work of the Spirit to open the eyes of their minds and their hearts.

2 Corinthians 4:4

In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

Ephesians 1:16-18

...remembering you in my prayers, that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, having the eyes of your hearts enlightened...

Pray that God Would Open Doors to Share

Often times in our attempt to share the gospel with friends, it can feel like there's not really an opportunity. The timing may not feel right, or there could be opposition from our friends. The good news is that we can pray for God to open a door and that God would give us the wisdom and ability to share the gospel clearly.

Colossians 4:3-4

At the same time, pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ, on account of which I am in prison— that I may make it clear, which is how I ought to speak.

Pray for Other Believers to Cross Their Paths

This is twofold: we can pray for other Christians to influence our unsaved friends and we can also look for opportunities to influence the unsaved friends of other Christians. As “spiritual farmers,” we should be attuned to opportunities to plant spiritual seeds in the lives of people we encounter each day. We may have no idea who has already been praying for them and the culminating impact that can have. Sometimes we will sow and others reap. And sometimes we will reap where others have sown.

Matthew 9:38

...pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.

Pray that They Would Know God Personally

Many people think Christianity is just another religion. They only see God through the lens of the organization and institution of the church. They may even feel frustrated, angry, or betrayed by people in churches they have encountered. But God didn't come to build an organization. He came to rescue and have a relationship with lost children.

Romans 8:15

For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!”

God wants His beloved sons and daughters to come home. Praying for people to have personal encounters with the living God makes a huge difference.