

Praying For The Unsaved

Jesus' mission here on earth was pure and simple, *"And I, the Son of Man, have come to seek and save those like him who are lost."* Luke 19:10 (NLT). Statistics show that the average Christian loses all contact with their unsaved friends within two years of receiving Christ.

If, however, we are to "imitate" God, then his passion for the lost will become our passion. Read Luke 15 to catch a glimpse of how much the Father cares for his lost children and then begin to pray for your own friends, family, neighbors and co-workers.

1. Pray that their heart would be prepared, so that it will be "good soil" for the seed.

"Listen! A farmer went out to plant some seed. As he scattered it across his field, some seed fell on a foot-path, and the birds came and ate it. Other seed fell on shallow soil with underlying rock. The plant sprang up quickly, but it soon wilted beneath the hot sun and died because the roots had no nourishment in the shallow soil. Other seed fell among thorns that shot up and choked out the tender blades so that it produced no grain. Still other seed fell on fertile soil and produced a crop that was thirty, sixty, and even a hundred times as much as had been planted." Mark 4:3-8 (NLT)

2. Pray that God would bring Christians into their lives to share with them the Gospel.

"Don't forget to pray for us, too, that God will give us many opportunities to preach about his secret plan—that Christ is also for you Gentiles. That is why I am here in chains. Pray that I will proclaim this message as clearly as I should. Live wisely among those who are not Christians, and make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be gracious and effective so that you will have the right answer for everyone."

Colossians 4:3-6 (NLT)

3. Pray that they would hear the "pure and simple" Gospel of Jesus Christ.

"And it is this Good News that saves you if you firmly believe it—unless, of course, you believed something that was never true in the first place. I passed on to you what was most important and what had also been passed on to me—that Christ died for our sins, just as the Scriptures said. He was buried, and he was raised from the dead on the third day, as the Scriptures said."

1 Corinthians 15:2-4 (NLT)

4. Pray that Satan would not be able to steal the seeds of truth, and that nothing else will be able to destroy the seeds of the Gospel.

"The seed that fell on the hard path represents those who hear the message, but then Satan comes at once and takes it away from them. The rocky soil represents those who hear the message and receive it with joy. But like young plants in such soil, their roots don't go very deep. At first they get along fine, but they wilt as soon as they have problems or are persecuted because they believe the word. The thorny ground represents those who hear and accept the Good News, but all too quickly the message is crowded out by the cares of this life, the lure of wealth, and the desire for nice things, so no crop is produced."

Mark 4:15-19 (NLT)

5. Pray that they would turn away from a system of "works" and receive Christ's payment by grace through faith.

"God saved you by his special favor when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it."

Ephesians 2:8-9 (NLT)

6. Pray that the Gospel would be revealed and that the spiritual "blinders" would be removed.

"If the Good News we preach is veiled from anyone, it is a sign that they are perishing. Satan, the god of this evil world, has blinded the minds of those who don't believe, so they are unable to see the glorious light of the Good News that is shining upon them. They don't understand the message we preach about the glory of Christ, who is the exact likeness of God."

2 Corinthians 4:3-4 (NLT)

7. Pray that they come to true repentance.

"The Lord isn't really being slow about his promise to return, as some people think. No, he is being patient for your sake. He does not want anyone to perish, so he is giving more time for everyone to repent."

2 Peter 3:9 (NLT)

8. Pray that they get established in a Bible-believing church where they can grow

"And now, just as you accepted Christ Jesus as your Lord, you must continue to live in obedience to him. Let your roots grow down into him and draw up nourishment from him, so you will grow in faith, strong and vigorous in the truth you were taught. Let your lives overflow with thanksgiving for all he has done."

Colossians 2:6-7 (NLT)

9. Pray that we never give up praying for their salvation.

"So don't get tired of doing what is good. Don't get discouraged and give up, for we will reap a harvest of blessing at the appropriate time." Galatians 6:9 (NLT)

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“Once you were dead, doomed forever because of your many sins. You used to live just like the rest of the world, full of sin, obeying Satan, the mighty prince of the power of the air. He is the spirit at work in the hearts of those who refuse to obey God. All of us used to live that way, following the passions and desires of our evil nature. We were born with an evil nature, and we were under God’s anger just like everyone else.

“But God is so rich in mercy, and he loved us so very much, that even while we were dead because of our sins, he gave us life when he raised Christ from the dead. (It is only by God’s special favor that you have been saved!) For he raised us from the dead along with Christ, and we are seated with him in the heavenly realms—all because we are one with Christ Jesus. And so God can always point to us as examples of the incredible wealth of his favor and kindness toward us, as shown in all he has done for us through Christ Jesus.

“God saved you by his special favor when you believed. And you can’t take credit for this; it is a gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it. For we are God’s masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so that we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.”

Ephesians 2:1-10 (NLT)

“And it is this Good News that saves you if you firmly believe it—unless, of course, you believed something that was never true in the first place. I passed on to you what was most important and what had also been passed on to me—that Christ died for our sins, just as the Scriptures said. He was buried, and he was raised from the dead on the third day, as the Scriptures said.”

1 Corinthians 15:2-4 (NLT)



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