

Door 3: Growing up in a broken home.

Prayers and encouragement, scriptures to bring before the Lord to close doors.

What is a 'broken family'?

A broken family is one where the individuals encounter significant emotional problems with one another. There could also be abuse or neglect or a lack of support for children within the family. The environment of a broken family is not a loving one. Usually, there is mutual distrust and a lack of care for one another. The children then feel unsafe and long for a stable family where there is mutual care between parents and children. Divorce is claimed to be the main reason or cause of broken families. Daily disputes and fighting between a husband and wife can revolve around many different dynamics.

Two examples of broken families in the Bible

God created the perfect family unit at creation, when He created Adam and Eve. They were the first family, evidencing the image of God in their beings and in their union. But then they sinned and became separated from God. This also affected their relationship with each other. Thus, the original family unit was broken. Adam and Eve's first child, Cain, was born into this broken family. Cain murdered their second son, Abel. Now Cain talked with Abel his brother; and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother and killed him. (Genesis 4:8).

At the request of his wife Sarai, who was impatient for a child, Abram took their slave, Hagar, as His mistress and had an illegitimate heir/child, Ishmael. Now Sarai, Abram's wife, had borne him no children. So, Sarai said to Abram, "See now, the LORD has restrained me from bearing children. Please, go into my maid; perhaps I shall obtain children by her." And Abram heeded the voice of Sarai. So, he went into Hagar, and she conceived. And when she saw that she had conceived, her mistress became despised in her eyes. (Genesis 16:1-2; 4).

Does prayer fix every broken family?

What does it mean to pray for broken families? Does it mean that their situation or our situation will be miraculously fixed or turned around? Not necessarily, no! However, through prayer, the Lord will most certainly work in troubled relationships of broken families. Through prayer, broken families may experience increased faith and hope and surrender their family fight to Jesus.

Prayer.

Father, we pray for our families to reach a place where we will admit the brokenness in our family, and where we will yield to Your power to heal our family relationships.

Lord, where there is struggle emotionally including myself, may we reach the end of trying to fix things ourselves. We pray for our family and loved ones to open their hearts so that You can do the work You want to do in them individually including myself. Let us

hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful. (Hebrews 10:23). We pray that we all turn to You for hope and grace that only You can give.

Pray the Lord's Prayer over broken families.

- **Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name.** Our Father in heaven, may Your name be honoured in broken families. We desire for each individual to be restored, made holy and cherished, through the power of honouring and fearing God.
- **Your kingdom comes.** May Your kingdom come soon into our lives. When a person seeks first the kingdom of God, then everything else in life is placed in the right order. When God is in control of lives, there will be direction in the prayers, thoughts, behaviours, feelings and attitudes of our family members.
- **Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.** May Your will be done in broken families on earth, just as it is in heaven. God's perfect will for broken family members is their salvation in Christ Jesus.
- **Give us this day our daily bread.** Give us the food we need for today. God's grace is sufficient to meet all our needs – one day at a time. When we come to Him in prayer, He meets our needs daily. He feeds us the bread of His Word and He provides for all our physical needs as well.
- **And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.** And forgive me just as I forgive those who have sinned against me. Forgiving one another prepares one's heart to receive forgiveness. Forgiveness is not an option. Jesus states it plainly that if we forgive those who sin against us, our heavenly Father will forgive us. But if we refuse to forgive others, our Father will not forgive our sins.
- **And do not lead us into temptation but deliver us from the evil one.** Don't let us yield to temptation but deliver us from the evil one. I Apply the blood of Jesus in prayer for protection over broken families. The blood protects us from the sin of building walls that hinder and even destroy relationships.
- **For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.** For You will build Your kingdom and manifest Your glory forever and ever. The battle has already been won on the Cross where Christ destroyed the works of the devil. Let us battle in prayer that claims, establishes and overcomes the enemy, though he seeks to rob, kill and destroy our abundant life in Christ (John 10:10). I Pray for the abundant life of God's kingdom for myself and every broken family.