



## **240: A Staying Prayer for Parents of College Freshmen**

The weeks have been marked with laughs, but now our grown-up children begin a new set of firsts. We help them pack their bags with clothes and boxes filled with books, but you see what we, their parents, carry in our hearts, anticipation, longing, love, regret, anxiety, nostalgia and resolve. We are a mix of excited, terrified and closed-eyed hope.

As we watch our children look for a fresh start, remind us to make our home in you. As we send our freshman off into the world, make our feet steady to stay behind, sure, confident, rooted, at peace. As we pray for our growing-up children to find good friends, may you bring prayerful friends to our own side to remind us we're not alone.

If insecurity, fear or disappointment knock on our newly-quiet household door, may we turn to you and be still with our questions, rather than turn away toward the activity of a busy life. If we receive calls from our faraway students, though there may be tears and heartbreak on the other line, may we not set out to fix. Rather, may we sink deeper into you. Weave wisdom into the fibers of our soul, bearing the fruit of confidence, clarity, contentment and a light heart.

May we have the patience to believe even when the reports sound grim. May we not be quick to judge. Rather, may we be patient and curious. May we remember what our children need more than answers is to know they're not alone. May we remember what they need more than advice is to know they've got what it takes. May we not despise our weakness. Rather, may we see how weakness brings a daily reminder to trust. May we feel the freedom to feel what we feel, without the pressure to be more happy, more sad or more anything other than simply who we are in this moment.

When we struggle to let go, in your time, replace our fear with courage and our confusion with peace. And when the not enoughts haunt us in the night, the fear that we didn't love, teach, do or instruct enough while the kids were under our roof, comfort us with the assurance that you are the artist who weaves together the good and the beautiful from all things. Help us release our children into your hands. As parents sending children off all over the world, may your grace surprise us kindly in this time of newness, waiting and love. Amen.