

## **Prayer Petition #5: A Prayer Regarding Peer Pressure and Decision-Making among Youth**

### **Scripture Reading:**

Psalms 128:1-4; Deuteronomy 16:19; Proverbs 4:24; I Corinthians 15:33-34

### **Reflections of the Heart:**

Evil communication corrupts good manners and a child left untrained in the way of the Lord will be more susceptible to evil. Christian youth must be taught to guard their ears, yield not to the lures of evil's temptations and, above all, overcome evil with good.

### **Scriptural Prayer:**

Heavenly Father, we stand up and praise You, Lord our God, for You live from everlasting to everlasting! May Your glorious name be praised! May it be exalted above all blessing and praise! (Nehemiah 9:5) You have all wisdom and do great and mighty miracles. You see the conduct of all people, and You give them what they deserve. (Jeremiah 32:19) How joyful are those who fear You, Lord—all who follow Your ways! (Psalms 128:1) O our God, we thank You and praise Your glorious name! (I Chronicles 29:13) With one voice we give praise and glory to You, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. (Romans 15:6) Thank You, Abba Father, for the Holy Spirit, who counsels believers in our decision making and in our friendships.

Lord God, we lift up to You our concerns regarding the decisions being made by the children of believers, many because of pressure from their peers. Your Word instructs us that in the last days there will be very difficult times. For some people will love only themselves and their money. They will be boastful and proud, scoffing at You, disobedient to their parents, and ungrateful. They will consider nothing sacred. They will be unloving and unforgiving; they will slander others and have no self-control. They will be cruel and hate what is good. They will betray their friends, be reckless, be puffed up with pride, and love pleasure rather than You. They will act religious, but they will reject Your power that could make them godly. Even so, Father, we Christians proclaim that our youth will stay away from people like that! (II Timothy 3:1-5) The words of many peers of our young people may be as smooth as butter, but in their hearts is war. Their words are as soothing as lotion, but underneath are daggers! (Psalms 55:21) The godly give good advice to their friends; the wicked lead astray. (Proverbs 12:26) Such wicked people are detestable to You, Lord, but You offer Your friendship to the godly, (Proverbs 3:32) and we claim that our youth will be godly! With their words, the godless destroy their friends, but knowledge of You will rescue the righteous. (Proverbs 11:9) We proclaim that our youth will be a friend of anyone who fears You—anyone who obeys Your commandments. (Psalms 119:63) If someone secretly entices our young people—even a brother or a close friend—and says, 'Let us go worship other gods'—gods that neither we nor our ancestors have known, we decree that our youth will not give in or listen. (Deuteronomy 13:6) We confess that our children's former friends may be surprised when our youth no longer plunge into the flood of the wild and destructive things they do. So they may slander our sons and daughters. (I Peter 4:4) We decree that our youth will not be afraid of anyone's anger, for the decision they will make is Your decision. (Deuteronomy 1:17b) We proclaim that no bad example will influence our youth. They will follow only what is good. They will remember that those who do good prove that they are Your children, and those who do evil prove that they do not know You. (III John 1:11) Our youths' decisions will be based on Your regulations. (Ezekiel 44:24b)

Heavenly Father, we pray that all Christian parents will direct their children onto the right path so that when they are older, they will not leave it. (Proverbs 22:6) May they teach their children that there are "friends" who destroy each other, but a real friend sticks closer than a brother. (Proverbs 18:24) We pray that our youth will not give in to temptation, (Luke 22:40) for many deceivers will say they are loyal friends, but may each child find one who is truly reliable. (Proverbs 20:6) Holy Spirit, when our youth experience their friends' scorn, counsel them to pour their tears out to God. (Job 16:20) Inspire them to realize that friendship with the world makes them an enemy of God. (James 4:4a) Help them to test the spirits behind each voice to see if the spirit comes from God, for there are many false prophets in the world. (I John 4:1) By the power of Your hand, O Lord, destroy those who look to this world for their reward. But satisfy the hunger for friendship of our youth who are Your treasured ones. (Psalms 17:14a)

***Father, I will seek to be a mentor to these youth I know who are vulnerable to be victims of ungodly peer pressure:***

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Merciful Father, for the honor of Your name, forgive the many, many sins of Your people (Psalms 25:11) when we come to You in sincere repentance, and forgive our precious children when they are beguiled by satan's messengers. Holy Spirit, when some of our children's friends laugh at them, when they call on You and expect an answer, (Job 12:4a) counsel them to be quick to forgive their friends and stay steadfast on God's Word. Just as damaging as a madman shooting a deadly weapon is someone who lies to a friend and then says, "I was only joking." (Proverbs 26:18-19) May that person see the damage he has done and seek Your forgiveness, Father. When parents are careless and allow negative influences to corrupt their children, may the Holy Spirit convict them so they will seek forgiveness and become more vigilant to protect our youth. Father, forgive me for *(list the sins, say them out loud to the Lord)*. Holy Spirit, bring to my remembrance those I need to forgive. *(Take a moment and ask the Holy Spirit to show you names or faces of people that you may need to forgive. As He shows you, say out loud, "I forgive name of person(s).")*

Holy Spirit, remind our youth not to yield to temptation, and that Jesus Christ is our strength and has delivered us from the evil one.

Almighty God, You show us Your unfailing love in wonderful ways. By Your mighty power You rescue those who seek refuge from their enemies. You have taught children and infants to tell of Your strength, silencing Your enemies and all who oppose You. (Psalms 8:2) (Psalms 117:7) Oh, how great are Your riches and wisdom and knowledge! How impossible it is for us to understand Your decisions and Your ways! (Romans 11:33) Praise be to Your Spirit, who reminds us of Your precepts brought to us by Jesus Christ, in whose mighty name we pray. Amen!

**Scripture References for the Written Text:**

***Today I will trust God to:***

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