Letter Writing Kit

Ages 13+

ANGEL TREE®
A Program of Prison Fellowship

PRISON FELLOWSHIP

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Here's Your Very Own Letter-Writing Kit!

It's hard having a mom or dad in prison. You still think about your parent. And you probably have a lot of questions you would like to ask: Are you OK? What is your day like? Do you have any friends there? Do you miss me?

You may have some feelings you would like to talk about with your mom or dad. Maybe you are lonely with your parent gone. Or sad because you feel left behind. Or mad because of what your mom or dad did.

You know, your mom or dad thinks about you a lot, too. Your parent may have a lot of questions: Are you OK? What is your day like? Are you having fun with friends? Do you miss me?

See, a lot of your questions are the same!

And, so are your feelings. Most moms and dads in prison are really lonely, too. Or sad because they can't be home. Or mad at themselves—not at you—for doing something that put them in prison.

Wouldn't it be great if you had a way to ask questions and talk about what you are doing and what you are feeling—even if you are far apart?

You CAN—by writing letters.

This special letter-writing kit was made just for you and other young people like you. It includes all the tools you need to write to your mom or dad. The activity book has some really cool ideas for what to put in your letter too—like questions you might want to ask, or a game you can play with your mom or dad, or a comic strip you can make together.

We have asked churches to put together letter-writing parties, so you may be around other youth with parents in prison and do this together. An adult will be there to help you if you get stuck on what to say or how to spell something.

You can also use this kit on your own to write to mom or dad anytime!

Are you excited about getting started? We think your mom or dad will be excited to hear from you!

Getting Started Is Easy

- Choose a letter idea or activity from the Letter & Activity Booklet.
- Write some words to your mom or dad. (You might want to write a little or a lot. It's up to you!)
- Be sure to write your name at the end of the letter.
- Put your letter or activity into the envelope and stick a stamp on it.
- Address your envelope to your mom or dad.
- Mail your letter.

Have Fun!

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My Day

This is what I did today ...

Q: *Can you tell me about one of your days?*

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Hard Feelings

Some days I have feelings that I struggle with—like loneliness or anger or resentment. I think some of these feelings come up because you are not here. I'd like to tell you about some of these hard feelings I have ...

Q: ***Can you tell me about some of your feelings?***

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My Best

I'm really proud of some things that have happened in my life. I'd like to tell you about them ...

Q: ***Can you share with me something you are really proud of?***

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QUESTIONS

I have some questions that I would like to ask you. I hope you will take some time to answer them for me. It would mean a lot to me.

Q: ***Are there any questions you would like to ask me?***

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Thoughts on God

Sometimes I think about God. This is what I think God is like ...

This is what I think God thinks about me ...

Q: ***What do you think God is like?***

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Thinking About You

When I think about you, these are some thoughts I have ...

Q: *When you think about me, what are some thoughts that you have?*

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About Me

This is something I'm not sure you know about me, and I would really like you to know this ...

Q: ***What is something you would like me to know about you?***

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Decisions

Here is a decision I've got coming up, or something that I am struggling with ...

Q: ***Do you have some good advice to give me about this?***

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Praying

When I pray for you, this is what I pray ...

Q: *Do you pray for me? What do you pray?*

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FUN TEST 1

ANGEL TREE®

Kids, YOU fill out this side of the letter. Then send it to your parent. Ask your parent to fill out the same questions on the OTHER SIDE and mail it back to you.

1 **What is the name of the last book you read?**

2 **What is your favorite sport to watch?**

3 **What is your favorite sport to play?**

4 **What kind of music do you listen to?**

5 **What is your favorite TV show?**

6 **What do you like about that TV show?**

7 **If you could star in your own TV show, what kind of show would it be? Describe what would happen in it.**

8 **What is one thing you really, really want to say to your mom or dad?**

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FUN TEST 1

ANGEL TREE®

Parents, YOU fill out this side of the letter.
Then send it to your child.

1 **What is the name of the last book you read?**

_____

2 **What is your favorite sport to watch?**

_____

3 **What is your favorite sport to play?**

_____

4 **What kind of music do you listen to?**

_____

5 **What is your favorite show?**

_____

6 **What do you like about that TV show?**

_____

_____

7 **If you could star in your own TV show, what kind of show would it be? Describe what would happen in it.**

_____

_____

_____

8 **What is one thing you really, really want to say to your child?**

_____

_____

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FUN TEST 2

ANGEL TREE®

Kids, YOU fill out this side of the letter. Then send it to your parent. Ask your parent to fill out the same questions on the OTHER SIDE and mail it back to you.

1 **When you have free time, what is your favorite thing to do?**

2 **What do you like most about doing that favorite thing?**

3 **What is something you have never done before, but you would really like to do?**

4 **What is something that you have done, but NEVER want to do again? Why?**

5 **When you daydream, what do you think about?**

6 **When you think of yourself five years from now, what do you think you will be like?**

7 **What do you think you will be doing five years from now?**

8 **What is one thing you really, really want to tell your mom or dad?**

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FUN TEST 2

ANGEL TREE®

Parents, YOU fill out this side of the letter.
Then send it to your child.

1 **When you have free time, what is your favorite thing to do?**

2 **What do you like most about doing that favorite thing?**

3 **What is something you have never done before, but you would really like to do?**

4 **What is something that you have done, but NEVER want to do again? Why?**

5 **When you daydream, what do you think about?**

6 **When you think of yourself five years from now, what do you think you will be like?**

7 **What is your biggest hope for the future?**

8 **What is one thing you really, really want to tell your child?**

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FUN TEST 3

ANGEL TREE®

Kids, YOU fill out this side of the letter. Then send it to your parent. Ask your parent to fill out the same questions on the OTHER SIDE and mail it back to you.

1 **Is there anybody you look up to as a hero?**

2 **Why is that person special to you?**

3 **What is one thing you really like about yourself?**

4 **What is one thing you would like to change about yourself?**

5 **Pretend you are starting to write a book about your life.**
What would be the first three sentences?

6 **If they turned your book into a movie, what actor would you pick to play you?**

7 **A lot of stories end with this line: "And they lived happily ever after."**
How would you like the book about your life to end?

8 **What is one thing you really, really want to tell your mom or dad?**

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FUN TEST 3

ANGEL TREE®

Parents, YOU fill out this side of the letter.
Then send it to your child.

1 **Is there anybody you look up to as a hero?**

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4 **What is one thing you would like to change about yourself?**

5 **Pretend you are starting to write a book about your life.**
What would the first three sentences be?

6 **If they turned your book into a movie, what actor would you pick to play you?**

7 **A lot of stories end with this line: "And they lived happily ever after."**
How would you like the book about your life to end?

8 **What is one thing you really, really want to tell your child(ren)?**

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COMIC STRIP 1

Create a comic strip together! In the first comic strip box, write in the voice balloon what the character is saying. Send the comic strip to your parent, who fills in the dialogue for the second box. When your parent sends it back, you complete the third box and send it back. Your parent finishes the fourth panel and then sends it back to you—so you can see how the comic ends! ***You might even want to create a new comic strip with characters of your very own! You can use the back of this page if you want.***

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Draw your own comic strip on this blank page!

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COMIC STRIP 2

Create a comic strip together! In the first comic strip box, write in the voice balloon what the character is saying. Send the comic strip to your parent, who fills in the dialogue for the second box. When your parent sends it back, you complete the third box and send it back. Your parent finishes the fourth panel and then sends it back to you—so you can see how the comic ends! ***You might even want to create a new comic strip with characters of your very own! You can use the back of this page if you want.***

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Draw your own comic strip on this blank page!

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Do a Crossword Together

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Answer one of the clues below. Then send the crossword puzzle to your mom or dad. Your parent answers another one of the clues. Send this back and forth until you finish the whole puzzle. (You may also decide to answer two clues at a time if you want. That way you will finish the puzzle faster.) We've answered one clue (14 Across) to get you started.

ACROSS

2. You exercise to make these stronger
4. A creature from another planet
5. Flavored ice on a stick; children especially like them in the summer
8. All the people who live in the United States
10. This is something you do for fun and relaxation
11. A square has four sides; this shape has three sides
12. This can make you sick, and it can also mess up your computer
14. A type of horn
15. The part of the evening between daylight and nighttime
16. At the national level, this includes the president, Congress, and the Supreme Court
17. A person's bones—you see these a lot on Halloween
18. You can type papers on it or play games on it

DOWN

1. Alternating lines of color, as on the U.S. flag
3. Adults go get this so they can legally drive a car
4. A reptile that is like a crocodile
6. If you don't go to a private school, you probably go to a _____ school
7. What you put in a car to make it run
9. A person's consent for you to do something
10. A person's image that he or she wants to protect
13. These are the people who sit on the bleachers and watch a football game

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