

DISCIPLESHIP | MATTERS

A Litany for Children's Day

(For personal prayer or use as a responsive prayer with others)

Leader: Rescuer of the weak, father of the fatherless, voice in the wilderness

Group: We lift our voices to you on behalf of children. We pray:

Leader: For those whose laughter tickles our ears

Group: And for those whose sobs go unheard

Leader: For those who count the days 'til Santa rewards the "nice"

Group: And for those who dread Christmas morning's empty chill

Leader: For fussy eaters who hide their peas

Group: And for bellies full of hunger

Leader: For scary trips to the dentist

Group: And for unrelenting toothaches

Leader: For backpacks filled with markers and mid-day snacks

Group: And for outgrown sneakers filled with holes and hurting feet

Leader: For those who dream big dreams

Group: And for those whose hopes go unfulfilled

Leader: For grins of joy

Group: And stares of shame

Leader: Open our ears to the voices of children

Group: And our eyes to your solutions.

All: We pray. Amen.

Adults often resist children in worship because they are noisy and disruptive. However, worship is not about us; it's about what pleases God. Instead of expecting children to sit still and quiet (something many adults don't do) in too-big pews, create a children's space in the sanctuary. Child-sized furniture with activities for little hands will create a sense of belonging and open little ears and hearts to the message of God's love.



"Imagination is the bridge by which we stretch from the everyday to the mystery." — Robert T. O'Gorman

The arts are essential to making Scripture relevant to children's daily lives. Using the arts taps into the intrinsic spirituality and creativity of children. Drama possesses perhaps the greatest power to make biblical principles real by fostering experimentation with alternative outcomes, life-choices and future dreams. Select a theme drawn from a Bible story—such as justice, love or forgiveness—and then encourage children to identify situations from their daily lives, such as arguments with siblings, feeling left out, failing a test or aggression in competitive sports. Give them time to create a skit that integrates the theme into this experience. As a twist on the children's sermon, have the children be the preachers, bringing the message to the adults through the drama they create.



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Anything you did for one of the least important of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.

— Matthew 25:40 (NIRV)

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Unless otherwise noted, Scripture quotations are from the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible.