



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

FOR CHILDREN AT RISK

PRAY FOR THE CHILDREN

World Day of Prayer for children at risk occurs on the last Sabbath in May. Its aim is to unite adults and children globally in focused prayer raising an awareness to the thousands of children around the world and within our community who are at risk of abuse, neglect, hurt, trafficking and much more.

Children at risk need to be protected and helped so that they can use their God-given talents to their fullest. They need our prayers. You can have special prayer groups or run a special program to involve your church, young and old in creating awareness of the need to pray and protect these children.

So, what else can be done?

This little booklet contains information and ideas for activities you can do with your church, children or family to create awareness and pray for children who are at risk or already suffering from abuse and neglect.

The activities are based around themes in 1 Samuel and are ideal for groups of primary-aged children.

The Discipleship Ministry Team - Children
South Pacific Division





CHILDREN AT RISK

There are so many challenges and problems for children and teenagers who are denied the opportunity of a secure and loving family life. Many are abused and mistreated on a daily basis, and this should not happen. Below is a list of the various types of abuse that children may be exposed to. Let's remember to pray for these children.

Types/ definitions of abuse:



Neglect

Any serious act or omission by a person having the care of a child that, within the bounds of cultural tradition, constitutes a failure to provide conditions that are essential for the healthy physical and emotional development of a child.



Emotional Abuse

Any act by a person having the care of a child that results in the child suffering any kind of significant emotional deprivation or trauma.



Physical Abuse

Any non-accidental physical act inflicted upon a child by a person having the care of a child.



Sexual Abuse

Any act by a person having the care of a child that exposes the child to, or involves the child in, sexual processes beyond his or her understanding or contrary to accepted community standards.

<https://aifs.gov.au/cfca/publications/child-abuse-and-neglect-statistics>

ACTIVITY IDEAS



Prayer makes a difference. God loves it when children pray. Use this day as an opportunity to run a program, do some activities or start a conversation with adults and kids about prayer and children at risk of neglect and abuse.

Here are some activities to get you started:



**Theme: Family
Prayer Wall**

Create shapes of water droplets out of paper and give one to each child. These represent Hannah's tears as she prays for her child (1 Samuel 1: 7-8). Ask each child to draw or write a prayer request for someone they know* who needs help on the tear drop. Ask each child to repeat what he or she wrote/did as they go one-by-one to stick their tear drop on a large piece of paper to create a prayer wall. The leader can close with a prayer.

Hannah wanted a child to care for. God wants to take care of us and has given us loving families to look after us. Let us pray for children, teenagers and their families. Let's also remember those children who have lost their loved ones and are orphaned.

**Or provide appropriate newspaper clippings of children in the media of countries dealing with trauma to cut out and place on tear drop. This is an opportunity for children to practice feeling empathy for those less fortunate than themselves.*



**Theme: Equality
Title: Three-legged prayer**

Write several short prayers on cards. Hide prayer cards around the room. Pair one boy with one girl (as they feel comfortable), and tie the right foot of one child to the left foot of the second child with ribbon so that they are three-legged. Ask them to work together and find the prayer cards. Ask the children to pray together the prayers written on the cards.

Eli respected Samuel and treated him with dignity recognising that as a child he could serve God. God wants children around the world to be treated like others and to be respected just as Samuel was.





Theme: Education

Title: Prayer balloons

You will need a large group of children for this game. Inflate colourful balloons and use markers to write on them the items boys and girls need in order to study at school (eg pencils, notebooks).

Write each word on two different balloons, play music and ask the children to find the pairs of balloons. Afterwards, put the children in groups and ask them to pray for everything children need to go to school using the balloons.

Hannah wanted Samuel to serve God and learn from Eli the things of the church and to study the Bible. In the same way God wants children to do the same.



Theme: Emergencies

Title: Building pyramids

Give the children plastic cups and, in two teams, ask them to build a pyramid as high as they can. When you blow a whistle, knock the cup pyramids down, and ask them to rebuild.

The group that manages to raise the highest pyramid at the end of three minutes wins. Tell the children that natural events go unplanned and people may lose everything. Pray for children living in situations like this.

Just as Samuel reacted to Gods call, the Lord also wants us to respond in times of emergencies with an attitude of service.



Theme: Love and peace

Title: Prayer drama

Divide the children into four groups and ask them to produce a drama showing a situation where love or peace may be displayed. These are positive emotions which every child should have in their life.

For instance:

- At home with family
- At school with friends
- Playing with their brother or sister
- Practising for a test or exam

Each group should then perform their play, with the aim of showing each scenario as very peaceful!

Eli loved Samuel very much and cared for him even though he was not his son. God wants children to be loved by the people around them. We should pray for children to be treated with love and respect.



Theme: Courage

Title: 100 jumps for prayer

Come up with three one-line prayer requests on the subject of courage. Ask the children to jump up and down 100 times (or 25 times each as a group of four), repeating the prayer points each time they jump. How easy is it?! God expects us to have strength and endurance to face difficult situations.

For Hannah it was difficult to leave Samuel with Eli, but even so she trusted God and was prepared to do the right thing, honouring her commitment. She had strength in her heart, just as God wants us to be strong in difficult moments. Pray that children around the world would have the strength to speak out against what hurts others.



FOR MORE





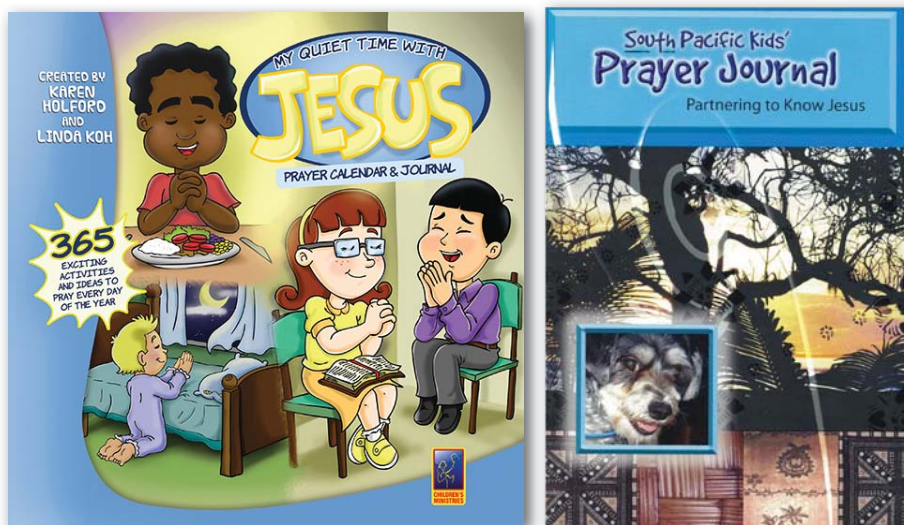
We are linked with **VIVA** - an organisation which for every year has a special weekend for children at risk www.viva.org/start-here/

VIVA publishes a prayer booklet for anyone who would like to download it. https://issuu.com/viva/docs/childrens_book_online_version. It's a good resource you can use.

VIVA also has resources that are translated into many other languages, to print or download visit www.viva.org/pray/world-weekend-of-prayer/ (Please note that we do this day of prayer on different dates from what is advertised on the **VIVA** website).

✿ RESOURCES

Here at the South Pacific Division we also have a Prayer Calendar and Journal (\$3au) and our South Pacific Kids Prayer Journal (\$2au) that can be promoted and used in your church or at home for this day. Please contact the Discipleship Ministries - Children's team to order. children.adventistchurch.com/contact-us/





Creating a safe faith community for everyone.

AdSAFE is an independent service providing a centralised and consistent service for the protection of children and vulnerable persons for the Seventh-day Adventist Church across parts of the South Pacific Division. AdSAFE contributes to the mission of the Church by enabling children and vulnerable people to experience the love of God in a safe and secure church related environment.

AdSAFE's principal objective, endorsed by the Seventh-day Adventist Church, is to implement preventative strategies to mitigate the risk of abuse against children and vulnerable people within the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

For more information or to **seek help** please call or visit their website.

Freecall: 1800 220 468 (Australia)
 0800 442 458 (New Zealand)
 +61 2 9847 3488 (International)

Website: adsafe.org.au

Email: info@adsafe.org.au



ABUSE STOPS NOW FULL STOP

If you suspect child abuse or grooming within your community call us immediately. Not doing so exposes a child to serious risk. You can remain anonymous and all information is treated as sensitive.

Call the AdSAFE Hotline: AUS 1800 220 468 NZ 0800 442 458



adsafe.org.au



Sections of this booklet have been adapted from VIVAs WWP- activity ideas sheet.

<http://www.viva.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/WWP-activity-ideas.pdf>

These activities were produced by Viva Latin America, adapted and translated into English.

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