Prayers for child-friendly services
World Weekend of Prayer, 1-2 June 2013

Total time: 4-5 minutes

This set of prayers can be read by children and/or families. If you have the facilities, you can use the PowerPoint along with these prayers, but they can be simply read aloud on their own.

Presider
This weekend is the World Weekend of Prayer for children at risk, which is organised by Viva. Today we will join with thousands of others across the world to pray for children. The theme for this year is family and we have some children/families who are going to lead us in prayer…

We are going to pray for families who are struggling to have stability.

Group/child #1
Dear God

Thank you for giving us families. But, Lord, all across the world there are families who are struggling—struggling to have enough food to feed their children, struggling to remain in their homes, struggling to stay together. We pray that you would strengthen them and we pray for practical solutions to the problems they face. We particularly remember Syrian families, especially children trapped by conflict or uprooted and living in refugee camps. Right now Lord may they know your loving care.

Presider
We are going to pray for families that are broken.

Group/child #2
Dear God

Thank you for the support that loving families can bring. But, Lord, many children grow up only knowing anger and violence. Please protect these children and be their loving Father—direct them to people who can help. We want to pray for the people in churches and organisations all around the world who are working with children in situations of abuse. Give them wisdom and all the resources they need to bring wholeness and healing to these children and their families. Right now, Lord, may they know your help.

Presider
We are going to pray for children whose families are not present.
Group/child #3
Dear God

Thank you for the family members who support us. But we know that many children in the world are missing the care of a mother or father. We want to pray for these children, that you would provide each one with people who will love and care for them. We especially pray this for children living in orphanages or care homes and those living on the streets. And we pray for the millions of families that are separated for all sorts of reasons – that you would protect them from loneliness and bitterness. Right now, Lord, may they know your re-assuring presence.

Presider
We pray for families in our church and local community.

Group/child #4
Dear God

Thank you for giving us our church family. We know we are not perfect and yet you have called us to love and serve each other as brothers and sisters. Give us eyes to see those who need our love and support. We pray especially for the children in this church and our community, that as a church we can help provide them with safety, security and the knowledge that they are loved. Right now, Lord, may we know your leading to respond.

Presider
Father God, we lift up all our prayers with those of others praying for children at risk this weekend. We pray for miracles in the lives of children and we pray that your church in the world will be your hands and feet so that no child feels/is left alone in this world.

We ask this in the name of Jesus your beloved son

Amen