

PRAY FOR FAMILIES EVERYWHERE

Teacher's Note:

More than 70% of the world's population face legal restrictions or social hostilities because of their religious convictions. Christians are the most widely persecuted group and face discrimination in more than 100 countries. Each year, there are Christians who face hunger, family exclusion, homelessness, imprisonment, violence, and sometimes even death. Help the children in your group connect to this reality by (1) describing these realities, (2) asking children to either look up in their Bible or read from this guide key Scripture verses that touch on these realities, (3) lead a time of intentional prayer using the suggested prayer points on this guide and (4) encourage children to take this guide home and pray through it with their family. Additional activities could be to provide a coloring sheet of a Bible character who was imprisoned (Daniel, Paul, etc.; free copies can be found with an online search) or to have students first act out one of the Bible passages and draw the connection to individuals today who face these same challenges.

Some Christians are persecuted for their beliefs. They are treated badly and sometimes forced to leave their homes. Think about what life is like for these families. They might have to live in tents near many other people. They might be sad and sick. It may be hard for their family to have enough food. Think about these things. Then pray.



Pray for families. Pray that they will know God's love. Pray for people who have been kicked out of their families because they follow Jesus.

See what amazing love the Father has given us! Because of it, we are called children of God. And that's what we really are! The world doesn't know us because it didn't know him.

- 1 John 3:1

The Lord your God is with you. He is the Mighty Warrior who saves. He will take great delight in you. In his love he will no longer punish you. Instead, he will sing for joy because of you.

- Zephaniah 3:17

Pray for people whose family members have died from persecution.

I am absolutely sure that not even death or life can separate us from God's love. Not even angels or demons, the present or the future, or any powers can separate us. Not even the highest places or the lowest, or anything else in all creation can separate us. Nothing at all can ever separate us from God's love. That's because of what Christ Jesus our Lord has done.

- Romans 8:38-39



Pray for mothers who are working hard to care for their families. Pray for fathers who are fighting for freedom. Pray for people who have been hurt, and those with no job. Pray that families can return to their homes and cities.

God is our place of safety. He gives us strength. He is always there to help us in times of trouble.

- Psalm 46:1

Then Asa called out to the Lord his God. He said, "Lord, there isn't anyone like you. You help the weak against the strong. Lord our God, help us. We trust in you. In your name we have come out to fight against this huge army. Lord, you are our God. Don't let mere human beings win the battle over you."

- 2 Chronicles 14:11

The Lord gives strength to his people. The Lord blesses his people with peace.

- Psalm 29:11

Pray for children who have seen hard things. Pray that they will be healthy and happy. Pray that people who have been hurt will not hurt others. Pray that girls and women will be loved by their fathers and husbands.

I will search for the lost. I will bring back those who have wandered away. I will bandage the ones who are hurt. I will make the weak ones stronger. But I will destroy those who are fat and strong. I will take good care of my sheep. I will treat them fairly.

- Ezekiel 34:16

The Lord is close to those whose hearts have been broken. He saves those whose spirits have been crushed.

- Psalm 34:18

He heals those who have broken hearts. He takes care of their wounds.

- Psalm 147:3

