

A Prayer for Our Children

We pray for the children who put chocolate fingers on everything, who love to be tickled, who stomp in mud puddles and ruin new clothes, who eat candy before supper, and who can never find their shoes in the morning.

We also pray for those who stare at us from refugee resettlement camps, who have never had a new pair of shoes, who have never known what it is to play, who were born in places that we would not want to go.

We pray for the children who have sticky kisses, and give us fistfuls of dandelions, who sleep with their dog, and forget to look after their goldfish. We pray for children who hug too tight, and for the children who forget their lunches. We pray for the children who squeeze toothpaste all over the sink and who slurp their soup.

We pray for those children who never get enough to eat, who have no favourite blanket because they have no blanket. We pray for children where there is no bread to eat or who have no home, and have to roam the streets.

We pray for the children who have spent all their allowance the day they got it, who pick at their food, who love all kinds of stories, and who shove their dirty laundry under the bed. We pray for children who do not like to be kissed when they are dropped off at school, and who squirm during the service.

We pray for those children whose nightmares occur in the daytime, who will eat anything, and who have never seen a doctor or a dentist. We pray for the children who are not spoiled by

anyone, who go to bed hungry and who wake up hungry, who live and move and have no address.

We pray for those children who like to be carried, and for those children who have to be carried, for those who give up and for those who never give up, for those who grab the hand of anyone kind enough to offer it, and for those who find no hand to grab.

Dear Jesus, for all the children, we pray as we remember that you came to us as a child. We pray for all of the children precious in your sight, and whom you never turn away.

Loving and gracious God, we as grownups also pray, giving thanks that you have sent your beloved Son, Jesus, to be a light to all who walk in darkness. Help us, who have seen that great light, to share it with those whose world is so much darker than our own.

Jesus, shine in our darkness. Help us to show the light of your love all around us, wherever we go. We pray to you Jesus.