

Petition:

A Prayer for Children and Youth

Scripture Reading:

Psalm 95:1-7, Mark 10:13-16

Reflections of the Heart:

“If there is anything that we wish to change in the child, we should first examine it and see whether it is not something that could better be changed in ourselves.” ~C.G. Jung, *Integration of the Personality*, 1939

Scriptural Prayer:

Great and Holy Father, You are King over all the earth. Thank You for rewarding us with the gift of beautiful, healthy, strong, and bright children and youth. They are indeed a blessing! Thank You for all the opportunities You afford us to be affected by their innocent wonder and joyful enthusiasm. May we always seek to emulate these qualities in our own walk of faith. Thank You for keeping our children and youth safe and always in Your watchful care. Thank You for being their Heavenly Father. We will proclaim Your power. We will meditate on Your majesty, Your glorious splendor, and Your wonderful miracles. Your awe-inspiring deeds will be on every tongue and we will proclaim Your greatness. We will all share the story of Your wonderful goodness. You made the earth by Your power, and You preserve it by Your wisdom. With Your own understanding You stretched out the heavens. We praise Your great and awesome Name. Your Name is holy!

Glorious Father, we confess that our children and youth will obey their parents because they know it pleases You. We decree that, as their parents, we will treat them with kindness and understanding so as not to aggravate them and cause them to become discouraged. We decree that You, O Lord, are their refuge and place of safety. They will be rescued from every trap that is laid before them and You will protect them from deadly disease. We confess that our children and youth will listen when they are corrected by their parents and others who are in authority over them. They will pay attention and learn good judgment. We confess that they are destined for greatness because they prize wisdom. We decree that our children and youth do not possess a spirit of fear and timidity, but power, love, and self-discipline. We declare that You, Lord, are a shield around them. You are their glory and the lifter of their heads. They will lie down and sleep peacefully at night and wake up in safety because You are watching over them.

Father, I commit to intercede for (list the names of children and youth in your life and pray for their specific needs):

Holy Spirit, we ask You to move upon the hearts of our unsaved children and youth to confess with their mouths that Jesus is Lord and believe in their hearts that God raised Him from the dead so that they can be saved. Please remind them of the Godly instruction they have received so that when they are older, they will not leave it. Heal the hearts and mend the wounds of those children who are without their parents due to illness, death, incarceration, or abandonment. Encourage them with the assurance that no matter what happens, You will never fail or abandon them. Please protect them from any labels, evil words, or comments that society may try to place upon them. Teach them to know that because they are united with Christ they have an inheritance. Let them not be ashamed of the Good News about Christ. Please lead parents to get an understanding of the importance of their role in their children's lives and give them the strength to lead by the best example. Give our children a compassionate heart so that they might forgive their parents' weaknesses and failings.

Almighty Father, forgive the sins of our children and youth (***specifically list the sins***). Forgive parents who are too distracted with the cravings of their flesh and the pursuit of worldly gain to properly and appropriately nurture their children (***specifically list parental sins***). Forgive parents who abuse or neglect their children. Heal and deliver them from generational curses that cut them off from the rich and satisfying life that Jesus came to give them. Holy Father, please forgive those of our children and youth who have foolishly despised

wisdom and brought grief and bitterness to their parents. Father, forgive me for (list any sins that you have committed). Holy Spirit, bring to my remembrance those I need to forgive, and help me to be quick to forgive. (Take a moment and ask the Holy Spirit to show you names or faces of people that you may need to forgive. As He shows you, say out loud, "I forgive name of person(s).")

Holy Spirit, remind our children and youth not to yield to temptation; but deliver them from the evil one.

Lord, You are the Lion of Judah, the heir of David's throne. You have won the victory! How awesome are Your deeds! Your enemies cringe before Your mighty power. Everything on earth will sing Your praises; shouting Your Name in glorious songs. By Your great power, You rule forever. You, O Mighty God, watch over every movement of the nations. All honor and glory to You, our Omnipotent Father, forever and ever! You are the eternal King, the unseen One who never dies. You alone are God! In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture References for the Written Text: Psalm 47:7, Psalm 127:3, Psalm 145:4-7, Jeremiah 10:6,12, Psalm 99:3, Colossians 3:20-21, Proverbs 20:7, Psalm 1:1-2, II Timothy 2:22, Psalm 91:2-3, Proverbs 4:1-2, 7, II Timothy 1:7, Psalm 3:3,5, Isaiah 54:13, I Timothy 4:16, Romans 10:9, Proverbs 22:6, Hebrews 13:5, Ephesians 1:11, Romans 1:16, I John 2:16, John 10:10, Matthew 6:13, Revelation 5:5, Psalm 66:3-4, 7, I Timothy 1:17

Today I will trust God to:
