

March 28, 2020 ~Praying for Children, Their Parents, Guardians, and Caregivers~

Father God, in your eyes, we are all your children. Your plans for us and promises to us assure that you will never leave us or forsake us. We believe your promise and even add in our own words, “no matter what”. The days we are living are surely “no matter what” times, and none of your adult children were prepared for the suddenness and seriousness of this coronavirus pandemic. It doesn’t surprise us that your little children are missing their friends, feeling sad and even angry when suddenly, they’ve been challenged to change everything they’ve always known to be normal about their lives.

We are thankful that you’ve remained with us and strengthened our resolve through wars, both natural and space exploration disasters, and horrific loss of human life when hands and evil intent of other humans brought our nation to a standstill. Now though, neither we nor your precious children, who are also our precious children, have experienced a time like this when schools have abruptly been dismissed indefinitely, places they play have been closed, their church’s doors are locked, and they can’t even tag along to the grocery store. They aren’t allowed to have a friend over to play, and being with their grandparents is forbidden. Lord, the world around them has turned upside down, and children’s new normal is confusing and hard to understand. Strengthen, guide, and give your wisdom to all parents, guardians, and caregivers here and around the world, who now protect and provide for all the emotional, physical, and educational needs of children, even when their own emotional needs are troubling their thoughts and overwhelming their confidence.

Help your adult children to understand and abide by protective guidelines for distancing and separation from all social activities. We ask for compliance and non negotiable adherence.

Provide confidence and consistency to those who were not chosen by you, Lord God, to be home teachers and encouragers using the plans and resources made available by dedicated teachers who long to be in the classroom each school day teaching students they’ve grown to know and

love. We ask that parents working at home doing their usual jobs be empowered with time management skills and patience to multitask. Calm free spirits, focus distracted little minds, and help children be independent, patient, and cooperative when they must wait for explanation, more direction, or assistance doing their assignments. In the minds of homeschooling adults, prioritize the importance of finishing and sometimes reteaching children so they master the objectives of this school year's curriculum.

Give comfort and calm the anxiety in our children, even when they sense our own uncertain anxiety. God of peace and consolation, pour out your peace and fill our hearts and thoughts with assurance that you are in control and are powerful, even now hearing our cries and working with your chosen servants in research, in medical care, in leadership, in protecting us, and in providing the food and essentials we need. Give us wisdom and words to be confident, convincing, and assuring adults to anxious children. Prevent us from exposing children to our fears and frightening, nonstop news on tv. Make us compassionate adults who intervene and become the source of consolation; the ones who listen to and gently answer children's many questions.

Just as you, Lord Jesus, invited children to come into your loving presence, draw your adult children not only come to you, but through your Spirit, be like your loving presence to their own children. Open arms to wrap them around their children, invite them to share quite time and conversations with you, and use them as examples to teach children to pray.

Almighty Protector, we ask for our own protection, and especially pray that you would surround all children with a shield of protection from exposure to the coronavirus.

We are your children, Father God. We know that our power depends on your powerful presence around and in each one of us. We place our hope and our trust in you. Lead us all to spend time with you in our separation. Make adults strive to be dependable and confident parents, guardians, and caregivers as children watch and learn how much all of your adult

children trust you with all of our hearts, all of our thoughts, and all of our actions. We lift up our prayers in Jesus' Name. Amen.