

30 Days of Prayer

Day 9

Mark 9.33-37

33 Then they came to Capernaum; and when [Jesus] was in the house he asked them, 'What were you arguing about on the way?'
34 But [the disciples] were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another about who was the greatest. 35 He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, 'Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all.' 36 Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, 37 'Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.'

Children are one of our faith community's most valuable assets. They bring life and vitality to worship, fellowship, and education events, and they learn with innocent acceptance things that adults often question and doubt. Children remind us to come to Jesus Christ with fresh wonder at the miracles that he can create, even now. Today we pray for the children in our congregation, and ask that God will help us see his world through their eyes, with faith and trust.

God of children, young and old,

You have called me your child. I am blessed that you have claimed me as your own, and that I will inherit your blessings. Thank you for calling us all to be your children. From the youngest in our congregation, little baby Larson, who is days away from being born, to the oldest in our congregation, Win Jensen, who just celebrated his 96th birthday, we are all privileged to be called children of God.

Lord, with the prevalence of media and the fast pace of our culture, our children must face more stress, busyness, economic turmoil, war, bullying, responsibility, and grief than we ever had to face. Remove those burdens from them and give them time and opportunity to experience joy, play, humor, healthy relationships, lightness, friendship, creativity, and rest. I thank you for the children in my life who bring me joy... *(take all the time you need to name the children in your life who are a blessing to you, and name their gifts)*. Protect them from suffering and hardship, and strengthen them in their faith, trust, and love.

You have placed children in our midst, not only so we might educate them and teach them the things of faith, but also so that we might learn to come to you and see the world through the eyes of a child. As we model our faith for them, help us to follow them as they, too, model faith for us. In the name of Christ,

Amen.