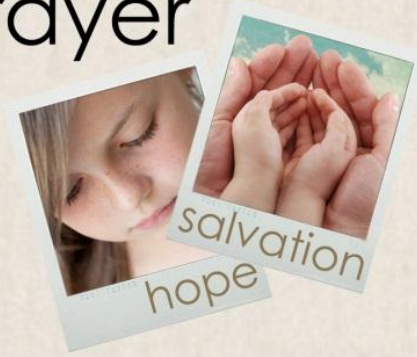


International Day of Prayer for Children together



Message Idea: Christs Representatives

This concept is designed to be added to and expanded as either a short talk or sermon.

Mark 10:13-16. 13 Some people brought children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them, but the disciples scolded the people. 14 When Jesus noticed this, he was angry and said to his disciples,

Let the children come to me, and do not stop them, because the Kingdom of God belongs to such as these. 15 I assure you that whoever does not receive the Kingdom of God like a child will never enter it.

16 Then he took the children in his arms, placed his hands on each of them, and blessed them.

Jesus loves children. In fact when he saw the disciples ushering the children away he became angry, and it wasn't often that Jesus became angry. The disciples learnt a valuable lesson that day. Although at the time the disciples may have considered these children insignificant or even a waste of time, Jesus certainly did not, and seeing Jesus' reaction, I'm sure they got the message.

You see, the disciples had put the "ministry" of Jesus before people, and culturally, children were the least. Jesus was making the point that ministry is actually all about people, so let them come. Children often view the world differently to adults. They are trusting, open and receptive. Jesus made the point that we are to be like children in relation to receiving the Kingdom, therefore acknowledging that it is a gift, it is not something that can be achieved with effort. We actually have lessons to learn from these little ones.

Imagine for a moment the image of Jesus embracing these children and blessing them. These children had just been told to go away, they were rejected, and then moments later they were in Jesus' arms.

This is a challenge to all of us. We are Christ's representative here on earth. And today millions of children are suffering unfathomable heartache. They could be living next door, or they could be on the other side of the world, Jesus loves them all, and therefore it is our responsibility to protect, educate, provide for, love and pray for these little ones that Christ loves so much.

Reflection: How are you and how can you better represent Christ to the children in your world? Ask God to give you a love and compassion for children and to become aware that they are not a waste of time, but a precious gift.