

HOW TO PRAY WITH YOUR CHILD IN SITUATIONS OF WAR OR CONFLICT

Ever since sin entered the world, our relationship with God and also our relationship between each other got broken. We turned away from the God of love and the world became more and more filled with evil, including violence, conflict and war. How can we explain war to a child? And how can we pray with children in situations of conflict? The following is a simple guide that will hopefully help your child find words and also deepen the compassion towards those who suffer of its consequences.

When there is war or conflict, children can face dangerous situations and they are full of fear. They cannot go to school or play with friends. They may have to hide in shelters and cannot sleep well because of terrifying noise, like sudden explosions. Some may have to flee from their homes, which can be very dangerous also. Pray with your child that God would protect the children and their families and bring them to safety.

Pray for Protection

Dear God, please protect all those who are in dangerous places right now that they will not be hurt. Help them find a safe place where they don't have to be afraid. And if they are leaving their homes, please protect them on their way.



"Be my rock of refuge, to which I can always go; give the command to save me, for you are my rock and my fortress." (Psalms 71:3)



Pray for Peaceful Hearts

Dear God, so many people and so many kids must be so scared right now. Please comfort their hearts. Take away their fear. Give them peace in their hearts. And let them know that You watch over them day and night. When they sleep and when they are awake, You are always with them.

Children are especially vulnerable in times of conflict and the situation is overwhelming for them when they hear and see what is happening around them. Pray that despite everything, they can experience that the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard their hearts and their minds in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:7) And may they also be reminded of Jesus' words in John 14:27 where he says: **"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid."**

Even though war is a time of great suffering and darkness, it is during such dark times that God's light of hope can shine through even more strongly and His faithfulness and mercy be revealed more clearly. People often meet God deeply during the most difficult times. Pray that God may work through churches and believers in Christ who can be the light of the world (Matthew 5:14), and provide comfort, encouragement, and hope. **"Comfort, comfort my people, says your God." (Isaiah 40:1)**

Pray that People Come Closer to God

Dear God, many people are so sad right now. And many are scared. Please help those who know You that they can share about Your love. And help those who do not know You yet that they can hear how much You love them. And let them find comfort and peace in Your love.



And about Jesus, the prophet Isaiah said that **"he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."** (Isaiah 9:6b)



"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God." (Matthew 5:9)

Pray for Peacemakers

Dear God, please give courage and wisdom to the good men and women who are trying hard to stop the war. Help them to speak and act boldly. Help them not to give up but seek solutions and endure until the conflict comes to an end.

In times of conflict, there are also people in churches, ministries, government, and organizations like the United Nations who are advocating for peace. Jesus said: Pray that they would stand strong and have the courage to speak up for the weak ones, so they can be like Joshua to whom God said: **"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go."** (Joshua 1:9)

War and conflict come from the evil one and cause so much pain, suffering and loss. They are never an answer to any problems but just cause more hurt, destruction and issues for the future. God's heart is in pain about violence among his children (Genesis 6:5-6) but He also promised a future in peace. Pray that those who are in power have a change of heart and will seek peace.

Pray for Peace

Dear God, please make the war stop. Please help people realize that war is bad and that it just makes everyone sad and angry, and it hurts so many people. We just want to have peace, so kids can play and go to school and be happy with their families.



"He will judge between the nations and will settle disputes for many peoples. They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore." (Isaiah 2:4)

Even after a war or conflict ends, it can take a long time for people to overcome what happened. There will be many bad memories because of the pain and loss that they experienced. It is not easy to come back to normal life, and it is not easy for hearts to heal from the deep wounds and hatred against those who hurt them. Pray that those who are in pain can feel God's presence closely. And pray that God would heal their hearts, help them forget the pain of the past and gain new hope for the future.

Pray for Healing of the Heart

Dear God, there are so many people who got hurt and so many who are sad because something happened to them or their family and friends. Please heal their hearts that they can forget the bad things. Help them have hope and joy again. And help them feel Your love.



**"The LORD is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit."
(Psalm 34:18)**

**He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."
(Revelation 21:4)**



For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility. (Ephesians 2:14)

When we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son. (Romans 5:10a)

Forgive as the Lord forgave you. (Colossians 3:13b)

Pray for Reconciliation

Dear Father, sometimes it is very difficult to love others, especially if they hurt us. But help us to remember that You always love us even if we do things that hurt You. Help us forgive the others. And help us say sorry for the things we did wrong. We want to live together in harmony and love each other.

The most difficult path to walk after conflict is the path of reconciliation. There can be deep hurt and distrust because of what happened. But Christ calls us to love our enemy, to forgive each other and to reconcile, so that evil can be overcome with good. Pray that God would raise up leaders who could model humility and reconciliation based on truth and love.

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