



## Stand Sunday Prayer

Today we lift up all the children who do not have the protection of their parents and family. God, we know each of these children were created perfectly and wonderfully by you. We pray for protection over them, we pray hope over their lives, and we pray they may have a childhood full of joy, learning, growing, and free of adult stresses.

We pray that for a future where all children who need a family have one.

We thank you for foster and kinship and informal carers who have already stepped up to be families for children. We pray protection over their marriages, relationships, families, and finances. We pray for joy in the journey. We pray for supernatural love for all the children in their homes.

We pray for healing for children who have been abused, neglected, and hurt. We pray they may enjoy a childhood free of hurt and stress and have dreams for their future.

God, your word calls us, Christians, to 'visit' and 'care for' orphans and widows, to put the lonely in families, to love the fatherless, to care for children and not hinder them coming to God. God we pray today that more Christians will step forward to be families for children who need them. God we pray they do this to bring glory to You.

God we pray for our churches to be places that understand the impacts of trauma and broken attachments on tiny brains and bodies. You created us to heal through connection and acceptance, I pray our churches can be places that offer this.

God we pray for all families, your design is for children to be raised by their parents. It is never your plan for this to be broken. We pray we can each be people that support families, encourage parents, step into children's lives and through this we are lights to our community right here.

We lift up parents who's children are growing up in care, you love them too, we pray their shame, addictions, and struggles may be healed, we pray they may find fullness in life. We pray for positive relationships between birth families and fostering families so they can all care for the children blessed to them.

We pray that we are people that never give up on a child, that we see the child you created, we see the way you love them and we ask you to help us continue speaking truth and care into each child's life.

We pray for people to rise up as mentors for children in care, that people willingly and purposefully step into children's lives to show them God's love. We pray for kinship carers and informal carers.

For people who haven't chosen to step into this space but have responded to a brokenness in their own family. We pray for healing over their family's situation, we pray for restored relationships, we pray for compassion as they seek to care for each person as well as the children caught in the

middle. We pray for churches and Christian brothers and sisters to come around these families, so they are not alone.

We pray for all the people working in this messy space. We pray for protection over workers. We pray for clear and good decision-making. We pray for collaborative practices that respect everyone involved in each child's life.

God we also lift up children all over Australia and the world right now, children who have been in lockdowns for months, children who have been in unsafe lockdown situations with domestic abuse, neglect, and abuse, babies born to seeing people wearing masks, the millions of children in the developing world who have been orphaned or lost one parent to covid. God these are your children, our heart breaks for them and the world they are growing up in, if there's ever a time the church could respond to be families for children who need one, support parents, support single parents, and encourage children, this is the time – please raise people up in Australia and around the world to respond to this need. We lift this all up to bring glory to you God, to show your perfect and wonderful design for children, families, and our church communities.

Amen.