



“Children are part of God’s creative plan.”

In the Bible, we read, “God blessed them and said to them, ‘Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. ...’”—Genesis 1:28 (NIV)

Read to students: After creating Adam and Eve, God commanded them to be fruitful and have children. God’s original design included families with children, just like you! Children were purposefully part of God’s design with family! Everything about creation was pronounced good, including his design for children. Children are an amazing part of God’s plan!



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Children are gifts from God to families.

In the Bible, we read, “Children are a heritage from the Lord, offspring a reward from him.” —Psalm 127:3 (NIV)

Read to students: The word “heritage” comes from the root meaning “to get or inherit.” It is an honor and responsibility to be entrusted with a little one from God. Your family has a great honor to be trusted to care for and love you. God gives families have a special job: to stand alongside God and shepherd children’s growth and development, to advocate for them, and to provide for their needs while they care for them.



Children need nurture and guidance.

In the Bible, we read, "Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old, he will not depart from it." —Proverbs 22:6 (NIV)

Read to students: When planting vines and some bushes, gardeners will attach them to a framework, like a pole or trellis, to keep them from spreading out of control. Children need solid structure to keep their physical, emotional, social, and spiritual growth on track too. Families are involved in the lives of their children to support their growth and development, and lead their children by their godly example.



Children need discipline.

In the Bible, we read, “Discipline your children, and they will give you peace; they will bring you the delights you desire.” —Proverbs 29:17 (NIV)

Read to students: There’s no question: disciplining children is hard work. It takes the fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control, which Galatians 5:22-23 speaks about. Parents who really love their kids will discipline them, as God does with us (Hebrews 12:7), not harshly, but gently and with the goal of leading them in the ways of the Lord. When discipline is done this way, children can become adults who fulfill all the Creator intends for them to become.



Orphans, displaced and refugee children, and children living in poverty need special care.

In the Bible, we read, “Do not oppress the widow or the fatherless, the foreigner or the poor ...” —Zechariah 7:10 (NIV)

Read to students: Children are vulnerable, even in good circumstances, but when there's poverty or violence, kids can suffer real damage. The Bible instructs us to help orphans. Orphans are children who do not have parents. Children living as refugees (strangers), or displaced by conflict, or living in extreme poverty (the poor) are also vulnerable. They have no social or financial safety net — no one to nurture them or provide for their needs. God asks people who worship him to help take care of kids in such vulnerable places.



Children need protection

In the Bible, we read, “...Meanwhile our women and children will live in fortified cities, for protection from the inhabitants in the land. —Numbers 32:17 (NIV)

Read to students: We live in a world corrupted by evil. Children face many challenges. Some of these challenges lead to brokenness, sadness, and loneliness. While each of our stories have brokenness in some way, we can be reminded with our, “I Can See Delight” perspective glasses that God is our deliverer from trouble and enemies; we know that we can see the delightful! Children need protection from people who seek to harm them. Families deeply love and protect children because God deeply loves and protects us. We can all be aware and help protect others in our family.



Children Are Blessed by God

In the Bible, we read, “And he took the children in his arms, placed his hands on them and blessed them.” –Mark 10:16 (NIV)

Read to students: In blessing the children while here on earth, Jesus shows his heart toward little children. In verse 13 of this passage, the disciples try to send people away for bringing their kids to Jesus, probably because he was talking with self-important religious leaders. His response was anger at his followers’ ignorance and pettiness. Children aren’t too unimportant to have God’s undivided attention. He always desires to bless them in every way.