



## 1 – 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 have children. God’s original design included families with girls and boys, just like you! Everything about creation was pronounced good, including His design for children. Children are an amazing part of God’s plan!



## 2 – 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 is greatly honored to be entrusted with your care and to love you. God gives families a special job as they care for sons and daughters: to stand alongside God and shepherd their growth and development, to advocate for them, and to provide for their needs.



### 3 – 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 also need solid structure to keep their physical, emotional, social, and spiritual growth on track. Families are involved in the lives of their children to support these areas of growth and development and to lead their children by godly example.



#### 4 – 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 that 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 daughters and sons 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.



## 5 – Orphans, displaced and refugee children, and girls and boys 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:*

Even in good circumstances, children are vulnerable. When they experience poverty or violence, kids can suffer real damage. The Bible instructs us to help orphans, those children who no longer have parents to care for them. Girls and boys also are vulnerable when they are refugees (strangers), are displaced by conflict, or are living in extreme poverty (the poor). 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 children in such vulnerable places.



## 6 – 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. Because of this, children face many challenges, which can lead to brokenness, sadness, and loneliness. Another challenge is that 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. While each of our stories includes brokenness in some way, we can be reminded with our "I can see the delightful" perspective glasses that God is our deliverer from trouble and enemies. We know to look for and see the delightful!



## 7 – 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:*

During his earthly ministry, Jesus blessed the young children He met, which showed His heart for girls and boys. In verse 13 of this passage, the disciples try to send people away for bringing their sons and daughters to Jesus., The disciples probably thought Jesus wanted to talk with the 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.