

SCRIPTURE FOR CHILD SPONSORSHIP SUNDAY



NAZARENE
COMPASSIONATE
MINISTRIES

The Bible has a lot to say about God's love for children and God's call for us to care for children living in poverty. Use these verses to support the ministry of child sponsorship and encourage prayer for children in need.

Then God said, "Let us make humankind. ... So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them." — Genesis 1:26-27, NRSV

There are more than 2 billion children living in our world. Each of them is valuable because he or she was created in God's image. Nazarene Compassionate Ministries' holistic child development model and child sponsorship program equip local churches around the world to walk alongside children who are vulnerable or living in poverty, equipping them to become the people God created them to be.

Then little children were being brought to him [Jesus] in order that he might lay his hands on them and pray. The disciples spoke sternly to those who brought them; but Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs." And he laid his hands on them and went on his way. — Matthew 19:13-15, NRSV

But Jesus called for them and said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs." — Luke 18:16, NRSV

In the midst of a culture that did not value children, Jesus made it clear that he values children, and he wants children to come to him. He laid his hands on them and blessed them. Through child sponsorship and church-led child development centers, children have an opportunity to learn about God's love for them and to learn about faith in Christ.

Then he [Jesus] took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, "Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me." — Mark 9:36-37, NRSV

Take care that you do not despise one of these little ones; for, I tell you, in heaven their angels continually see the face of my Father in heaven. — Matthew 18:10, NRSV

Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; or I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me. ... Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me. — Matthew 25:34-36

When we minister to children—the least of these—we are ministering to Christ himself.



SCRIPTURE CONTINUED

You shall not abuse any widow or orphan. — Exodus 22:22, NRSV

For the LORD your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who is not partial and takes no bribe, who executes justice for the orphan and the widow, and who loves the strangers, providing them food and clothing. — Deuteronomy 10:17-18, NRSV

Speak out, judge righteously, defend the rights of the poor and needy. — Proverbs 31:9, NRSV

Give justice to the weak and the orphan; maintain the right of the lowly and the destitute.
Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked.”
— Psalm 82:3-4, NRSV

But I am poor and needy; hasten to me, O God!
You are my help and my deliverer; O LORD, do not delay!
— Psalm 70:5, NRSV

Give justice to the weak and the orphan;
maintain the right of the lowly and the destitute.
— Psalm 82:3, NRSV

Learn to do good; seek justice,
rescue the oppressed, defend the orphan,
plead for the widow.
— Isaiah 1:17, NRSV

Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world. — James 1:27, NRSV

God calls us to care for those who are in need and vulnerable.

If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill,” and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? — James 2:15-16, NRSV

How does God’s love abide in anyone who has the world’s goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help? Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. — 1 John 3:17-18, NRSV

When we love children and others in need, we are living out our love for God by showing it to others.