



Mark 10:13-16 (NIV)

¹³ People were bringing little children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them, but the disciples rebuked them. ¹⁴ When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. ¹⁵ Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.” ¹⁶ And he took the children in his arms, placed his hands on them and blessed them.

[LENTEN PRAYER GUIDE: WEEK 4]

Children in Gemena need to experience God’s love

Since 1996 the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) has experienced only four years of relative peace in an ongoing civil war. Children here have little idea what it’s like to live without conflict. What they do know is poverty and the struggle to survive.

In the community of Gemena, poverty means that children don’t always have the nutritious food and basic care they need to stay healthy. But as people like you pray, this is beginning to change. What’s more, through the Covenant Kids Congo partnership, children have the opportunity to experience God’s love.

Let us, together, ask that children experience God’s love:

Savior and protector, wrap your loving arms around children in the DRC. Bring peace to this area of conflict and turmoil. Give children the opportunity to experience life free from poverty and fear.

As a result of violence and HIV and AIDS, many children in the DRC are living without one or both parents. Due to turmoil and conflict, women and children are vulnerable to exploitation and abuse. Living in these tumultuous circumstances, it’s often difficult for children to know and understand their God-given worth.

Join me in praying for children affected by violence, conflict, and disease:

Father to all, thank you that you care for orphans and widows. We ask that you would protect and encourage children and families living with the effects of HIV and AIDS and violence in the DRC. Bless those who are caring for the fatherless, and empower those who are speaking up for the rights of women and children.

Just as children need a stable home to fully thrive, they also need a stable community in which to grow and build a better future. In the DRC, stability has been replaced by poverty, and children have few opportunities to see examples of the joy and peace that come from knowing God’s love.

Let us ask that the love of God would reign in the DRC:

God of peace, grant stability and hope to children in the DRC. Bless families with prosperity and let them experience your love. May sorrow be replaced with joy and mourning with dancing. May children understand their worth in you and have the opportunity to pursue life in all its fullness.

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The Evangelical Covenant Church is united by Christ in a holy covenant of churches empowered by the Holy Spirit to obey the great commandments and the great commission: to love God with all our heart, soul, strength, and mind, to love our neighbors as ourselves, and to go into all the world and make disciples.

World Vision is a Christian humanitarian organization dedicated to working with children, families, and their communities worldwide to reach their full potential by tackling the causes of poverty and injustice.