



# How to Pray for... **CHILDREN EXPERIENCING ABUSE**



Around the world, child abuse is devastatingly common, and it takes many forms. Girls are especially vulnerable. For instance, because of son preference in India, girls are 75 percent more likely to die before their fifth birthday than boys—mostly from neglect and abuse. Globally, 1 in 5 women (compared to 1 in 13 men) report being sexually abused as a child. Children with special needs are also more likely to experience abuse. And in every country in the world, additional strains on the family—like poverty, substance abuse, and other types of domestic violence—increase the likelihood of abuse and neglect.

Beyond these factors, there's something deeper that enables child abuse to be the norm in many places. Satan's lies. Many people have never been taught that each and every person, every child, is created in the image of God, with inherent, immeasurable value. They don't understand that God created and owns everything; that we are only stewards of whatever we have, including our children. For those who believe that a child is a possession, something to be controlled, or a burden—just another mouth to feed—it is all too easy to perpetrate and justify abuse.



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## Please Pray With Us:

- For abusers, that the truth of Scripture would set them free and heal their families. Pray that they would understand that their children are made in the image of God, with all the value and potential that imparts. Many abusers have been abused themselves—pray that God would release them from their own pain and restore their identity. Pray that they would stop abuse and neglect, and that their changed parenting would be a powerful witness to their societies.
- For children experiencing abuse, please pray Psalm 20:1—May the Lord answer you when you are in distress; may the name of the God of Jacob protect you. Please pray that God would protect their hearts and minds. Pray that they, too, would know the truth and not perpetuate the cycle of violence in the next generation. Pray that God would put someone in their lives to show them love and value.
- Pray for wellsprings of repentance, forgiveness, restoration, and love to flow through families who have been caught in all kinds of domestic violence, including child abuse.
- Pray for churches to know the truth, to stand against domestic violence, to intervene for children who are experiencing abuse, and to model healthy parenting to their cultures.
- Pray for governments to make and uphold just laws that protect children.

***We encourage you to meditate on these verses and pray them over vulnerable children.***

For it was you who formed my inward parts;  
you knit me together in my mother's womb.  
I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.  
Wonderful are your works; that I know very well.  
My frame was not hidden from you,  
when I was being made in secret,  
intricately woven in the depths of the earth.  
Your eyes beheld my unformed substance.  
In your book were written all the days that were formed for me,  
when none of them as yet existed.

*Psalm 139:13-16*