



How to Pray for... **DIFFERENTLY-ABLED CHILDREN**



The Bible teaches that *all* people are made in the image of God for His purposes, that He does not make mistakes or overlook some. Yet, in nearly every culture, there are beliefs that cause children with disabilities to be treated as though this promise from God does not apply to them.

In many worldviews, a differently-abled child brings shame to their family or even fear from the community. People believe that the spirits or gods or God has cursed the child and their family. In performance-based western cultures, status, respect, and value are defined by how much a person can do; children with physical or mental differences that can't "perform" at the level of their peers are looked down upon, consciously or unconsciously.

As a result, differently-abled children are one of the most vulnerable groups in the world. All too often, they are neglected or abused. In Majority World countries, the stress and stigma that parents face all too often leads to broken marriages, depression, substance abuse, and attempted suicide. In these countries, parents who desperately want to help their child find few services, little support, and widespread discrimination. As they grow up, differently-abled children are more likely than their peers to experience joblessness, illiteracy, and every form of deprivation.



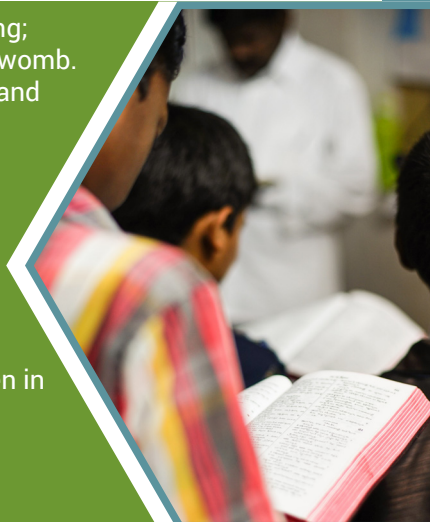
Please Pray With Us:

- That churches would recognize differently-abled children's special place in the Father's heart and take an active role in serving, supporting and speaking up for them.
- For parents of differently-abled children—for grace, patience, joy, and love to fill them. Pray that mothers and fathers would find the support they need, and that God would protect and strengthen their marriages.
- That governments would recognize the needs of the differently-abled, and would support and empower them. Pray for more opportunities for the differently-abled to contribute their gifts to society.
- For differently-abled children to sense God's affection and purpose for them. Pray against any shame, rejection, or condemnation they might feel.

We encourage you to meditate on these verses and pray them over differently-abled children.

For You created my inmost being;
You knit me together in my mother's womb.
I praise You because I am fearfully and
wonderfully made;
Your works are wonderful,
I know that full well.
My frame was not hidden from You
when I was made in the secret place,
when I was woven together in the
depths of the earth.
Your eyes saw my unformed body;
all the days ordained for me were written in
Your book
before one of them came to be.

Psalm 139:13-16



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