

Thy Kingdom Come - in our schools!

'One day some parents brought their children to Jesus, so he could lay his hands on them and pray for them. But the disciples scolded the parents for bothering him.

But Jesus said, "Let the children come to me. Don't stop them!

For the Kingdom of Heaven belongs to those who are like these children."

And he placed his hands on their heads and blessed them before he left' Matthew 19:13-15 NLT



In Jesus' time boys and girls had little or no status outside their family, so when parents asked Jesus to touch them it wasn't surprising that the disciples told them not to bother Him. But children were special to Jesus, so He beckoned them over and tenderly blessed each one of them. **He was showing everyone that the Father's arms are wide open to welcome them** – and anyone who shared their trusting attitude.

Throughout Matthew's gospel **God's Kingdom coming** is likened to many things:

- **yeast fermenting in dough to make it rise** - a tiny seed growing into a great tree
- **the finder of hidden treasure joyfully giving all he has to possess it**
- fishermen hauling in nets that are almost breaking because of such a massive catch,
- **responding to an invitation to a banquet**, - investing all God gives us in His service...

We can only enter because Jesus made a way. Many people miss this; assuming they are acceptable in themselves instead of relying on His mercy and grace.

God asks us to come like those trusting little children who met Jesus that day.

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As well as following their example of simple faith, let's pray 'Thy Kingdom Come!' for the children and young people in our schools.

*Loving Father, we pray for our school
with all the successes, challenges, celebrations and disappointments
that fill each week,*

*We long for the light and love of Christ's kingdom to come
for each member of this community as Your Spirit works among them.
May our school thrive because of Your gracious blessings. Amen.*

Why not **organise a local event**, inviting those with a heart for prayer?



- **Ask your church to host an evening prayer session**
- **Set up a prayer space with different opportunities and creative ways to pray for schools in the area.**
- **Involve Christian young people - to share stories, lead praise and pray.**
- **Encourage Head teachers, other school staff and Governors to contribute.**
- **Share the vision of covering every school in the neighbourhood with prayer**
- **Recommission schools workers, teachers, students and others to be Christ's ambassadors in their schools,**

"Thy Kingdom Come!"



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Pray for Schools Fortnight Prayer Diary: Thurs 10 to Wed 23 May 2018

THUR 10	Pray for renewed encouragement for Christian parents, teachers and other staff, schools workers, students and others as they pray for and practically engage with the schools in their area.
FRI 11	Ask God to help all who are preparing for important exams ; to be able to concentrate on revision, retain information, keep healthy and alert so they can do their best and gain the results they deserve.
SAT 12	Pray for Head Teachers and others in senior leadership roles ; that God would grant them wisdom and discernment as they make important decisions and undertake challenging tasks.
SUN 13	Intercede that the children will be taught more about the truth and grace of the gospel – in assemblies, RE lessons, from visiting local church ministers, schools workers and others.
MON 14	Give thanks for the contribution of Christian schools to so many children's education in the UK. Pray that they will continue to be free to teach biblical truth and values.
TUE 15	Ask God to raise up many Christians to be a positive influence ; as School Governors, on fundraising and other committees, volunteering in classrooms and contributing in other practical ways.
WED 16	Remember the invaluable contribution of non-teaching school staff : providing administrative back-up, caring for buildings and grounds, supervising children at lunchtimes and giving other support.
THUR 17	Pray for Education Secretary Damian Hinds MP and his team – for God to grant insight and wisdom in their dealings with teachers, parents, local authorities and other agencies.
FRI 18	Intercede for the growing numbers of children and young people affected by bullying . Pray for those who help them to cope with the mental health issues and other problems caused by this abuse.
SAT 19	Remember teachers and other support staff working with children who have special needs . Pray that they will receive grace and patience from God and find joy in all they do.
SUN 20	Ask God to grant wisdom to those responsible for the national education budget and in local education authorities . Pray for fairness and the ability to use the money available wisely.
MON 21	Pray about the plans for Relationship and Sex Education ; that Governors and parents will not be required to accept material they believe is unsuitable for their children.
TUE 22	Thank God for the thousands of groups and individuals who pray regularly for schools . Pray for encouragement not to give up but keep believing for the answers to their prayers.
WED 23	Intercede for the safety of children and young people in our schools , especially those in communities that are affected by gang culture and other social challenges.