

# *Prayer for Victims of Abuse*



"Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these..." And he took the children in his arms, put his hands on them and blessed them.

*Mark 10:14,16*

*Dear God,*

We cry out for you to embrace with your gentleness and compassion victims of abuse of any kind. We know that in our midst there are those who are broken in spirit because of harsh and demeaning words that robbed them of the sense of their own immense value. Some have suffered violations of their bodies and had their trust of a neighbor, family member, teacher, or - to our profound grief - even a pastor bitterly betrayed. The walking wounded may cross our paths at any time. They sit beside us in desks at school, in office lunch rooms, at tables during family reunions and in pews at church. When their wounds are made known to us, we cringe in sadness over their pain and hurt. To you their agony was never hidden, your love never far. Father, help them to know your love and comfort. Restore their faith and trust in the beauty and goodness and truth of your love. In your kindness, restore them to wholeness.

Father, help us to see past the masks that hide abuse and stir our spirit to be alert to even silent calls for help. Guide us in the right ways to help our families, parishes and communities to be safe and nurturing places where people are free from fear, empowered to live up to the fullness of their inherent dignity and invited to meet you. Help us always to offer the authentic embrace of your welcome and blessing to all of your children, to everyone we meet.

## *Special Intentions*

Show your mercy and aid upon people suffering consequences of bad choices born out of unhealed abuse;  
Call to repentance and conversion anyone who enabled abuse;  
Protect from suspicion those who are worthy of trust;  
For victims being abused, strengthen them with courage and wisdom to know where to turn;  
Refresh the faith of those who absorb in their spirit the shared pain of victims;  
Give us all a renewed voice to the message of forgiveness and new life, brought to perfection on the cross.

*Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son. Amen.*