



## **Lenten Prayers to Prevent Child Sexual Exploitation**

### **Week One**

Gracious God, we pray for children who suffer in the silence and secrecy of sexual abuse. Help them find a safe adult who will listen and act on their behalf to end the abuse and support their healing. May all people watch for signs of sexual abuse and work to set up protective barriers in their church and community. Keep all children safe from sexual predators. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

### **Week Two**

Creator and Protector, we pray for children and youth who do not have a safe place to call home, living couch to couch or out on the streets. We pray that those who were abused or found home life unsafe find care and healing. Help those who seek shelter find safe accommodations, supportive services and trustworthy adults. Protect them from those who would exploit them in this time of need. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

### **Week Three**

Loving God, we pray for street outreach workers, child advocates, police officers, and survivor service programs. Safeguard them as they identify and tend to the needs of youth they encounter. We thank you for these guardians of our youth who walk beside them as they journey toward safety, independence, and healthy relationships with each other and with caring adults. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

### **Week Four**

God of comfort, we pray for parents, caregivers, teachers, and others who shape children's lives. Help them model healthy relationships, boundaries, and safe behavior. Guide them as they deepen their knowledge of child development and the ways they can lead children to adulthood, teaching respect for each other and keeping them from harm's way. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

### **Week Five**

Lord of Life, we live in this time where the Internet provides wonderful opportunities for communication and knowledge, as well as dangers for our children and youth. Assist us as we teach young people to navigate it, sharing our values and providing wisdom about those who would use it to manipulate them. Help us to talk about the addictive and damaging influence of pornography as we support their healthy online and social media usage. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

### **Week Six**

Almighty God, guide our elected leaders, lawmakers, and government workers to listen with care to youth, youth workers, advocates, social service providers and others who come to them with stories of abuse, commercial sexual exploitation and trafficking of children, homeless youth, and predatory behavior. Help them create legislation that recognizes our civil and moral obligation to protect children from predators and traffickers. Make Safe Harbor the law of the land. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

*Hear the cry of our hearts, and move us to be your voice of compassion in the world.*

[www.cherishallchildren.org](http://www.cherishallchildren.org)