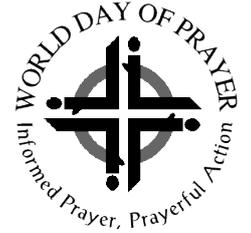




Friday, March 5th 2021
WORLD DAY OF PRAYER
'Build on a Strong Foundation'
CHILDREN'S SERVICE
From the WDP Committee of Vanuatu



Leader 1: We welcome each of you to the World Day of Prayer celebration!
Today, we will learn about the children of Vanuatu (Van-oo-a-too)
and their lives in their villages on the islands of the Pacific Ocean.
Let us find Vanuatu on the world map.

Song: **Here we are together** *Fischy Music*

Welcome everybody, it's good to see you here (x3)
Gathered in this place.

Here we are together, now we can begin
The youngest and the oldest, the only child, the twin.
Some who're feeling left out and some who're feeling in
Gathered in this place.

Welcome everybody, it's good to see you here (x3)
Gathered in this place.

Learning with Vanuatu Children

Leader 1: Vanuatu is an independent country located in the South Pacific Ocean.
It has many islands and beautiful beaches.
The islands are prone to natural disasters
such as cyclones, floods and volcanic eruptions.
The most severe, Category 5, Tropical Cyclone Harold
hit Vanuatu on 6 April 2020.

Leader 2: Vanuatu has only two seasons:
the hot and humid season from November to March,
when there are heavy rains and winds like cyclones;
and the dry season from April to October when the climate is moderate.

Child 1: There are no native large mammals, poisonous snakes, or spiders.
Wild pig and fowl are native.
The wild pig is very important to Vanuatu culture,
with the tusks included as a national symbol on the coat of arms.
The region is rich in sea life,
with turtles and dolphins and many species of fish.

Child 2: Most of the fruits and vegetables are organically cultivated,
except the ones that are imported.
The beef is considered one of the best in the world.

- Child 3:** Most children live in rural areas with no schools.
Some have to walk long distances to attend school
or leave their villages for boarding school.
- Child 1:** The indigenous people are mostly Melanesians
and there are a small number of Polynesians.
There are also people from other Pacific Islands living in Vanuatu
as well as people from Asia and countries like England, France or the USA.
- Child 2:** People speak many languages in Vanuatu.
Each child may speak their local language at home
and learn Bislama, English or French in school.
- Child 3:** Vanuatu children are known for their naturally beautiful smiles!
Let's share our own smiles with each other!

Prayer Dear Jesus,
we thank you for loving us as the children of the world.
We gather together to worship you with our singing and our prayers
and to listen to your word.
Thank you for the beautiful smiles of the children of Vanuatu.
Help us to keep smiling too.
In Jesus name, Amen.

Activity *(See Leader's Notes)*

Song: **Jesus loves the little children** *JP132, adapted. (Sing twice)*

Jesus loves the little children,
All the children of the world.
Every child in every land,
Jesus holds them in His hand.
Jesus loves the little children of the world.

(uplift an offering during the singing if applicable)

Leader 1: Jesus has an important message to tell all us.
His message to us is that every child is part of God's family,
and God teaches us all to live wisely.
Let's hear what Jesus taught.

Leader 2: One day, Jesus went up to a mountain
and many men, women and children followed him to hear his teachings.
He had a lot to say to help people live well
in their communities and families.
He gave us the 'golden rule' -
treat others as you would want them to treat you. *(Matt.7:12)*
Jesus' teaching is a strong foundation for children to grow up with.

Leader 1: When Jesus was about to finish speaking he said,
“Everyone who hears my teaching and follows this ‘golden rule’ is wise.
Everyone who hears my teaching and forgets to follow the rule is foolish.”
Then he finished his sermon with a story
to help people remember how to live wisely.

Bible Story *Read Matthew 7:24-27 while the children role play - see Leader’s Notes*

Leader2: Jesus said that people who ‘hear and obey’ his teaching are wise.
Do you know what wisdom is?
We can read lots of books and remember everything in them.
That gives us knowledge, but it doesn’t necessarily mean we are wise.
Having knowledge is all about what’s in our head,
but wisdom is putting all that knowledge into practice every day.

Leader 1: Some people know a lot about Jesus
and they put his teachings into practice in their lives.
Jesus said that those people are very wise.
He said that they are like a person who builds their house on a rock.
The storm comes, the rain falls and the wind blows,
but their house stands firm because it is built upon the rock.
There are other people who also know a lot about Jesus and his teachings,
but they do not put them into practice in their life.
Jesus said they are foolish.
He said they are like a foolish person who builds their house on sand.
The storm comes, the rain falls, and the wind blows and their house falls flat.

Leader 2: Let’s sing a song about the story
“The wise man built his house upon the rock...”

Song **The wise man built his house upon the Rock** (JP 252)

1. The wise man built his house upon a rock x3
And the rain came tumbling down.

*The rain came down and the floods came up x3
And the house on the rock stood firm.*

2. The foolish man built his house upon the sand x3
And the rain came tumbling down.

The rain came down ...

Leader 1: That’s great!
Now that we have the knowledge,
we would be wise to put it into practice in our daily lives!
When we trust Jesus and live like him,
we know that we have a place with God forever.
Jesus promised to be with us no matter what happens to us in life.

God is the source of everything we need,
and has a plan for each of our lives.

Leader 2: When we put our trust in Jesus, we become a member of God's family
and builders of God's Kingdom.
We are forever God's children.

Leader 1: What do you think is the most important thing we can do to have a good day?
(*Let children participate with their responses.*)

Prayer Jesus, we want to know what you taught, but more importantly,
we want to have the wisdom to take what you taught and put it into practice.
Amen.

Song: **I'll hide God's word inside my heart** (JP 378, adapted)
Original: Peter & Hanneke Jacobs. Tune: Fulda (CH4 363/ Singing the Faith 418) or Church Triumphant CH4 129)

I'll hide God's word inside my heart
and learn each verse from memory.
I'll hide God's word inside my heart
until God's word is part of me.

God's word will help me every day
to know what's right from what is wrong.
The more I read, the more I'll learn;
God's word will make my loving strong.

That's why I'll build my life upon
the words of God so wise and true;
to help me walk the ways of Christ
and seek his light in all I do.

Blessing

Our Father in Heaven, we thank you for your word.
We want to learn how to walk and live in your way.
Help us to hear and obey your word.
We want to have Jesus as the foundation in our lives.
Help us to live according to Jesus teaching,
so that we can spread the love of God in our community. Amen

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Please use Leader's Notes and Activity Sheets. See also the website:
www.wdpScotland.org.uk

*If an offering is taken, please send to: WDP Treasurer, Mrs Suzanne Foster,
Delnapot, Blacksboat, Banffshire, AB37 9BQ*

WDP Scottish Committee Scottish Charity Number SC020446