

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Scottish Committee
Scottish Charity No SC020446



CHILDREN'S PROGRAMME

Friday, 4th March, 2022

“I Know the Plans I Have for You” Jeremiah 29:1-14

From the WDP Committee of England, Wales and N. Ireland

This THEME brings the message that God is always with us, and gives us hope at all times:

- when we are happy or sad or in between
- when bad things happen to us
- in times of change, disappointments and loss
- at times of joy and celebration

All these things tell us what happened yesterday or what happened last week. The Bible has stories that happened in the past. Our story today is based on what the prophet Jeremiah told the people of Judah after they had to leave their land. They were sad and the job of the prophet was to keep the hope for the future, a future that is for God to give them.

‘I have good plans for you, not plans to hurt you. I will give you hope and a good future....And I will bring you back from your captivity.... And I will bring you back to this place. (Jeremiah 29:11-14).

We trust that God has plans for all of us and we know that we should hope for a good future.

Use the Postcard template to draw or write *‘My hopes are....’*.

SING: ‘He’s got the Whole World in His Hands’

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| 1. He’s got the whole wide world in His hands,
He’s got the whole wide world in His hands,
He’s got the whole wide world in His hands,
He’s got the whole world in His hands. | 2. He’s got everybody here in His hands,
He’s got everybody here in His hands,
He’s got everybody here in His hands,
He’s got the whole world in His hands. |
| 3. He’s got the tiny little baby in His hands,
He’s got the tiny little baby in His hands,
He’s got the tiny little baby in His hands.
He’s got the whole world in His hands. | 4. He’s got you and me brother in His hands,
He’s got you and me sister in His hands,
He’s got you and me together in His hands,
He’s got the whole world in His hands. |

LEADER: Sometimes we have to do things we don’t want to do or go places that we don’t want to go and say goodbye to friends. These could be times when we are sad and unhappy.

Have you ever been somewhere where you didn’t know many people? What did that feel like? Sometimes people have to leave their homes to go somewhere for safety. They may become refugees like Anisa, who has come to England from a long way away. This is her story:

ANISA’S STORY

ANISA: ‘My name is Anisa. I am 5 years old and I live in England now, but I came from Iran. My mummy, daddy and me came here in the back of a very large truck. We had to hide behind lots of big crates and be very quiet. We had to leave our country because there were people there who seemed very angry at us and

made us feel frightened. Even mummy and daddy were scared and said we would have to leave home and go away. I cried and didn't want to go, but mummy told me that God would help us and keep us safe'.

LEADER: What thing would **you** miss more than anything else if you had to leave your home?

ANISA: 'The journey was so long and we were very tired and uncomfortable. There was another family with us too, and we were often sick. We were hungry and thirsty. I tried not to cry, but I missed my own home and my doll that I loved very much. It was dark and very cold when we climbed out of the truck. We only had the clothes we were wearing. My daddy carried me across a field and along a road. I know that mummy was very frightened and I was too. I don't remember where we fell asleep the first night here. Everything seems very muddled now.'

LEADER: What do you think it would feel like not to have a home or friends? How important is it to have a friend? How can **you** be a good friend to someone – maybe someone new to your school?

ANISA: 'We have lived in different places until we got to this town. Now we have a rented flat and I go to primary school. This is where I met Susan. I was learning English and we could talk. She became my friend. She knew that I was feeling sad and scared. I was always feeling cold and hungry. Susan told her grandma about me. Her grandma went to her church and they contacted another church where many Iranians met together. They came and brought us some more clothes, bedding and some toys for me! My favourite is a baby doll with knitted clothes that Susan's grandma gave me.'

LEADER: So many small things can make a very big difference, can't they? God will always give you something to hope for and changes will happen.

ANISA: 'I am so happy to live here now. My daddy has got a job and my mummy is studying at the local college because she wants to be a nurse. Now I am glad that we came here - even though we still miss our first home and my family there. Now I know that God had a plan for us.'

LEADER: We know that there are many people from many different countries who are trying to find a new home, sometimes far away from their own country. They have to travel on long dangerous journeys and say goodbye to their families and friends. They want freedom and safety and God will give them hope for the future.

Sing O! O! O! How good is the Lord,

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| <p>1. <i>O! O! O! how good is the Lord</i>
<i>O! O! O! how good is the Lord</i>
<i>O! O! O! how good is the Lord</i>
<i>I never will forget what He has done for me.</i></p> | <p>3. He gives us His blessing,
<i>O! O! O!</i></p> |
| <p>2. He gives us each other, how good is the Lord,
He gives us each other, how good is the Lord,
He gives us each other, how good is the Lord,
I never will forget what He has done for me.
<i>O! O! O!</i></p> | <p>4. He gives us His Spirit,
<i>O! O! O!</i></p> |

LEADER: Now let us pray. Dear God, we thank you for keeping Anisa safe and giving her and her family a happy future. We pray for all the many children who have had to leave their homes and travel to new places to feel safe. Watch over them when they are sad or frightened and give them hope. We are sorry for the times when we have done things we know are wrong, the times when we have upset others by saying or doing things that are unkind. Thank you that, like a loving father and mother, you forgive us and help us to forgive others. Thank you that you give us hope for the future. Amen.