



# Blue Sunday

CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION INITIATIVE  
www.bluesunday.org  
Toll free 844-344-9366

## IDEAS FOR YOUR BLUE SUNDAY SERVICE

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Let's pray, educate ourselves and volunteer for the children of our nation until black and blue are just colors in their crayon box



### FOR KIDS:

Want a healthy and non-frightening handout for children to use at your Blue Sunday service?

Check out our Happy Families materials available for free.

These simple handouts show what it takes to have a happy family instead of focusing on "child abuse".

Free download:

[www.bluesunday.org/happyfamilies](http://www.bluesunday.org/happyfamilies)

To participate in Blue Sunday Day of Prayer for Abused Children our only requirement is prayer. To register [click here](#). The list below are just suggestions if you want to engage your church in different ways:

- ◆ Invite local child abuse prevention agencies to your service. Let them set up information booths and pray for them during your service. They are very under appreciated. This would mean the world to them and your congregation.
- ◆ Blue is the accepted memorial ribbon color for child abuse prevention. Consider handing out blue ribbons. Make your own or order stickers from [Oriental Trading Company](#).
- ◆ Show free videos (page 3). Please preview before showing.
- ◆ Hand out free Blue Sunday bulletin (page 3)
- ◆ Why not skip the blue ribbons and hand out small pebbles? Check out our free Pebble In My Shoe video and hand out the free church bulletins with the Pebble In My Shoe poem.

◆ What to pray :

Pray abused children are rescued

Pray they are put with caring people

Pray that their bodies can heal

Pray that their minds will heal

Pray they find hope

Pray for those who rescue them

◆ Here are some national statistics that are included on the free church bulletin:

Over 1600 children die annually as victims of child abuse.

Most were under the age of three. Most were victims of neglect.

Most were boys . Most deaths were caused by family members.

Six million NEW reports of abuse annually.

Two-thirds of those in drug treatment reported being abused as a child.

Eighty percent of the prison population were once in foster care.

Within one year of aging out of foster care, 66% will be homeless, in jail or dead.

*Don't let these statistics discourage you. Use the information to empower you to pray and seek God in their behalf.*

Please email us your Blue Sunday service photos and ideas at:

[info@bluesunday.org](mailto:info@bluesunday.org)

*Praying For Abused Children Since 1994*

# BLUE SUNDAY DAY OF PRAYER

Always the Last Sunday in April

The day when churches take time in their service to pray for the victims of child abuse and for those who rescue them.

We pray because they shouldn't have to pray alone.

Won't you ask your church to join in this life-changing effort?

It's free.  
Nothing to join.  
Just prayer.

**WHOEVER RECEIVES ONE LITTLE CHILD  
LIKE THIS IN MY NAME RECEIVES ME.  
MATTHEW 18:5**

Pray they are rescued  
Pray they are put with caring people  
Pray that their bodies can heal  
Pray that their minds will heal  
Pray they find hope  
Pray for those who rescue them

Blue  
Sunday

Register your  
church at:

[WWW.BLUESUNDAY.ORG](http://WWW.BLUESUNDAY.ORG)

Join over 8 million others who will be  
praying for abused children today.

We pray because abused children shouldn't have to pray

[Click here to download this flyer](#)

# FREE MATERIALS

click on samples to download:

## Happy Families

Write a story or draw a picture of your family doing something from the happy families list.



- Show respect even when they disagree
- Take turns talking and listening
- Share the chores
- Play together
- Give hugs everyday
- Learn to apologize and to forgive
- Do things together
- Protect each other

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month  Celebrate your happy family!

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## Happy Families:

- 1. Show respect even when they disagree**  
There is a right way and a wrong way to settle a fight. Hitting each other is always wrong. Using hurtful words is always wrong. You don't have to agree about everything.
- 2. Take turns talking and listening**  
It is fun to know what everyone is thinking. Don't interrupt or make fun of others when they say something you don't agree with.
- 3. Share the chores**  
Instead of dreading chores make a game of it. See who can finish first or whose room is cleanest. Cleaning time can double as music time. Turn up the music or better yet sing! Do a little everyday then your room won't be so hard to clean. Ask your parents what you can do to help instead of waiting to be asked. This makes parents very happy. Warning: It might even make them faint!
- 4. Play together**  
Parents stay very busy. Playing together doesn't have to mean a video or board game. You can make a game out of anything. How about playing I Spy, Tic Tac Toe, or telling stories or jokes.
- 5. Give hugs everyday**  
Don't just get hugs be a hugger!
- 6. Learn to apologize and to forgive**  
Everyone makes mistakes sometimes. The first person to apologize always feels better about themselves. Practice saying, "I'm really sad and I'm really sorry for what I've done." It makes it easier to say when you really mean it. Forgiving means you choose to overlook and forget when someone hurts you. When someone says
- they are sorry believe them. Their actions will show if they were being honest.
- If someone physically hurts you, tell an adult even if they ask for your forgiveness.
- 7. Do things together**  
Being together is important. You don't always have to do things that cost money. Go for walks. Read together or read to a younger brother or sister. Cook together. Visit parks, nature refuges, libraries, museum, church, or extended family. Looking at old family photos is always fun.
- 
- 8. Protect each other**  
Parents protect you by taking you to the doctor and dentist. Knowing where you are at all times is a parent's job. When you are playing outside check in with your parents. Parents aren't always going to be around so remember when you are alone never talk to strangers and never tell a stranger on the phone that you are home alone. If you go online tell your parents if someone asks you for your name or where you live. Not everyone online is who they say they are. Protect yourself and your family by not telling about yourself or your family to anyone online.
- 
- April is Child Abuse Prevention Month  
Celebrate your happy family!

Blue Sunday/Child Abuse Prevention [www.bluesunday.org](http://www.bluesunday.org) Adapted from Strong Happy Families - The Family Strength Research Project

## Blue Sunday Day of Prayer for Abused Children

### Pebble in My Shoe

I have a pebble in my shoe  
I don't know why it's there  
Every step I take it hurts  
It's more than I can bear

It came the day my parents left  
I've had it for so long  
I must be bad to have such luck  
I wish I could be strong

I wonder if my family knows  
I'm crippled and in pain  
I heard that they're not coming back  
I guess I am to blame

I looked for help to heal my pain  
that holds me back each day  
Many work to keep me safe  
But still the pebble stayed

Then one day I prayed to God  
Are you real and true?  
Can you send someone to help?  
I think...  
I think...  
He sent you

Praying for abused children is like taking pebbles from their shoes. J Magee, founder

### Blue Sunday Prayer

Lord, thank you for our children,  
For them we kneel and pray.

Help us teach them of  
your kindness,  
of your mercy and your way.

Help us show them of your love,  
your strength and safety, too.

Help us show them who you are.  
Help us treat them like you do.



Let's pray, educate ourselves,  
and volunteer for the children  
of our nation until black and blue  
are just colors in their crayon box.

## Visit [www.bluesunday.org](http://www.bluesunday.org) for free Prevention and Relief Ideas

Over 1600 children die annually from abuse

Most are under the age of three

Most are victims of neglect

Most are boys

Most deaths are caused by family members

Six million new reports of child abuse occur annually

Two-thirds of those in drug treatment reported being abused as a child

Eighty percent of the prison population were once in foster care

Within one year of aging out of foster care, 66% will be homeless, in jail or dead

*How can we do nothing?*

### Learn the Signs of Child Abuse

For daily tips and latest news follow us on <a href="https://www.facebook.com/bluesundaykids">facebook.com/bluesundaykids</a>	The Child: Shows sudden changes in behavior or school performance	Is always watchful, as though preparing for something bad to happen	Call <b>1-800-4 A CHILD</b> to report child abuse
Follow us on Twitter at <a href="https://twitter.com/bluesundaykids">bluesundaykids</a>	Has not received help for medical problems brought to the parents' attention	Lacks adult supervision	
Visit us at <a href="http://bluesunday.org">bluesunday.org</a>	Has learning problems that cannot be attributed to specific physical or psychological causes	Is overly compliant, passive, or withdrawn	



Thank you for joining over eight million people today who are praying for the victims of child abuse and for those who rescue them.  
Thank you for asking God what you can do to help children in your own community.

Click here to view list of free videos to use on Blue Sunday

## Our Fundraising Philosophy: GIVE WHERE YOU LIVE!

If you decide to take up an offering or do a fundraiser on Blue Sunday to help abused children we suggest you "GIVE Where You LIVE". Below are national agencies that are rescuing and helping children heal in your area.

Find the nearest one to your church by visiting:

[CASA](#) (Court Appointed Children's Advocate)

[CAC](#) (Children's Advocacy Centers)

OR

Consider using your resources to start your own outreach to abused children by visiting: [CarePortal.org](http://CarePortal.org)

Blue Sunday also accepts donations but feels children are best served by churches in their own region. [www.bluesunday.org/donate](http://www.bluesunday.org/donate)



Dear Pastor,

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month. It began in 1983 when a report about 500,000 abused children caught the attention and heart of President Ronald Reagan. "Now, Therefore, I ... hereby proclaim the month of April...as 'National Child Abuse Prevention Month.'"

Sadly, since the first Child Abuse Prevention Month, the number of abused children has grown from half a million children to over 6 million new reports of abuse along with 1600+ children dying annually as a result of their abuse. (These numbers do not include missing or exploited children through trafficking.) Pastor, we believe the Faith Community is the single best resource for hurt children and broken families. This battle cannot be won without you. You hold the key to what is missing for victims... hope. Hope produces faith and faith produces resilience and it all begins with prayer.

How to pray for abused children on Blue Sunday:

- 1) Pray the children will be rescued
- 2) Pray they are put with caring people
- 3) Pray that their bodies can heal
- 4) Pray that their minds can heal
- 5) Pray they find hope
- 6) Pray for their rescuers



On Blue Sunday, please open your hearts and doors to child abuse prevention agencies in your cities that need your help. Invite them to your church on Blue Sunday and pray for them as you pray for the young victims.

Blue Sunday is always the last Sunday of April's Child Abuse Prevention Month activities. It's free. Nothing to join. Just register your church or ministry to pray for the victims of child abuse and for those who rescue them. Let's pray, educate ourselves, and volunteer until black and blue are just colors in a child's crayon box.

Blue Sunday Child Abuse Prevention Initiative is dedicated to helping communities reach out to abused children and to support those who rescue them. We are a faith based 501c3 nonprofit organization. To register and for free church bulletins, videos, and Happy Family handouts, visit us at [www.bluesunday.org](http://www.bluesunday.org)

For more information contact Janet Magee at 1-844-344-9366 or at [www.bluesunday.org](http://www.bluesunday.org).

Your friend in the fight against child abuse,

*Janet Magee*

# Press Release

*"Don't look Away - Become the Way"*

For Immediate Release

April is Child Abuse Prevention month, and to remember the millions of children who are victims of abuse/neglect, Blue Sunday is joining with others for a day of prayer on April 30, 2017.

This year's annual call for prayer is titled: *"Don't look Away - Become the Way"*.

**Who:** Blue Sunday, the Faith Based Community and Children's Advocacy Groups

**What:** A day of prayer for abused and neglected children

**Where:** Faith Based locations nationwide

**When:** Always the last Sunday of April (times vary)

**Why:** To remember the millions of child abuse victims nationwide

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month. It began when a report about abused and neglected children caught the attention and heart of President Ronald Reagan. "Now, Therefore, I, Ronald Reagan, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim the month of April, 1983, as National Child Abuse Prevention Month." Sadly, since the first Child Abuse Prevention Month, the number of abused children has grown from half a million children to over 6 million new reports of abuse along with 1600+ children dying annually as a result of their abuse. (These numbers do not include missing or exploited children through trafficking.)

An epidemic of this magnitude requires that we all must face the hard facts:

- One in four girls and one in six boys will be sexually abused before their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday.
- Most victims are harmed or die at the hands of family members.
- Most incidents are drug and alcohol related.
- Child abuse is in every community.
- Within one year of aging out of the foster care system, 66% of victims are homeless, in jail or dead.

Faith Community, you are the single most untapped resource for hurt children and broken families. This battle cannot be won without you. You hold the key to what is missing for victims. You may have many resources such as empty buildings for parenting classes, volunteers, and finances, but more importantly, you hold the key that victims need... hope. Hope produces faith and faith produces resilience.

How to pray for abused children on Blue Sunday: 1) Pray the children will be rescued; 2) Pray they are put with caring people; 3) Pray that their bodies can heal; 4) Pray that their mind can heal; 5) Pray they find hope; and 6) Pray for those who rescue them.

Faith leaders, please open your hearts and doors to child abuse prevention agencies in your cities that need your help. Invite them to your church on Blue Sunday and pray for them as you pray for the victims.

Blue Sunday is always the last Sunday of April's Child Abuse Prevention Month activities. It's free. Nothing to join. Just register your church or ministry to pray for the victims of child abuse and for those who rescue them. Let's pray, educate ourselves, and volunteer until black and blue are just colors in a child's crayon box.

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**For more information:**

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