

Sample Prayer Service Grandparents' and Special Person's Day

Introduction:

Principal/Leader: We warmly welcome all grandparents and special friends and helpers to this prayer service.

Acknowledgment to Country

We gather here today, as the [*insert school name*] School Community, acknowledging and celebrating the gift of grandparents and the vital role they play in our lives.

Let us start our prayer service with the Sign of the Cross. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen

Pope Francis told the World Youth Day crowds in Brazil. "How important grandparents are for family life, for passing on the human and religious heritage which is so essential for each and every society! How important it is to have intergenerational exchanges and dialogue, especially within the context of the family. Children and the elderly build the future of peoples: children because they lead history forward, the elderly because they transmit the experience and wisdom of their lives. This relationship and this dialogue between generations is a treasure to be preserved and strengthened."

Today we think about your great wisdom and experience, which is passed from generation to generation and we celebrate the gifts all our ancestors have forged for us- the gifts of life and love. We give thanks for all of the guidance and encouragement.

I would like to ask and [*his/her/their*] [*grandson/daughter*] to come forward to light the candle.

[Invite a grandparent/s and grandchild/children to come forward and light the candle. The child could hold the candle as the grandparent lights it and places it in the Sacred Space.]

Lighting of the Candle

Student Reader 1: The light of the candle is a reminder of God's presence, around and about us, through us, with us and in us. We give thanks for the light that Jesus brings to the world in which we live, and for the light that we can be for one another.

Student Reader 2: Today is a very special day. It is Grandparents' and Special Person's Day and we are blessed that so many of you could be with us for this celebration. We want to honour and celebrate you all for the important role you play in the life of the community, but most significantly in our lives..., the children who are sitting here with you. You are very important to us, as we know we are to you. Let us take a moment to think about those grandparents and special people who are unable to be with us, and those who are with God.



(Quiet moment.)

Please join in as we sing our opening song.

Song

Suggestion:

Andrew Chinn's- Together As One (*This Day*).

Opening Prayer

Student Reader 3:

Loving God, you have blessed the generations with your steadfast love. You call us your family. Teach us to care for one another in this family. Show us how to work together and develop community. We ask that we be led by our grandparents and visitors, as they develop their gifts of wisdom, patience, love and kindness in their everyday lives. May we learn how to welcome and invite our families to grow. We ask this through Christ Our Lord.

All: Amen.

Scripture Reading (Mark 10:13-16)

(This Gospel text could be acted out as a mime by a group of students)

Reader:

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

People kept bringing young children to Jesus that he might touch them. The disciples tried to stop them. But when Jesus saw it, he was annoyed. He said to them, "Let the children come to me and do not stop them. For it is such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not accept and welcome the kingdom of God like a little child shall not enter it."

And Jesus took the children in his arms and blessed them, placing his hands upon them.

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Prayer of the Faithful

Leader/Teacher: We know that God always listens to us when we pray and so we bring our prayers before God.

Student 1: For all who care for us: the staff of our school, our parents, grandparents and our families.

Lord, hear us.

Response: Lord, hear our prayer.



Student 2: For all Grandparents and Special Friends: May they be blessed by the affection and gratitude of their grandchildren. May they always encounter respect and love.

Lord, hear us.

Response: Lord, hear our prayer.

Student 3: For children everywhere; that their homes and schools are places where they know that they are loved and cared for always.

Lord, hear us.

Response: Lord, hear our prayer.

Student 4: For all our grandparents. Lord, bless them for all the love and care they have shared with us over the years.

Lord, hear us.

Response: Lord, hear our prayer.

Student 5: For grandparents and special friends who are raising children or are regular caregivers and babysitters; may your selfless love and commitment be recognized and supported by those around them.

Lord, hear us.

Response: Lord, hear our prayer.

Student 6: For all who have died; we remember especially grandparents and all those we loved, may they be at peace with God.

Lord, hear us.

Response: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader/ Teacher: We take these prayers and the prayers of our heart and we offer them to God as we pray together, the Our Father

All: Our Father.....



Reflection

Suggestion: When you thought I wasn't looking. Author: Mary Rita Schilke Korzan

[Stanzas read by senior students. Could have accompanying illustrations shown on the PowerPoint]

Student Reader: Today we would like to reflect upon the blessing that all of you, our grandparents and friends, are to all of us. We learn so much from you...even when you are just going about your daily activities. Even when you think we aren't looking!

WHEN YOU THOUGHT I WASN'T LOOKING

When you thought I wasn't looking,
I saw you hang my first painting on the refrigerator,
And I immediately wanted to paint another one.

When you thought I wasn't looking,
I saw you feed a stray cat,
And I learned that it was good to be kind to animals.

When you thought I wasn't looking,
I saw you make my favourite cake for me,
And I learned that the little things in life could be the special things in life.

When you thought I wasn't looking,
I heard you say a prayer,
And I knew there is a God I could always talk to
And I learned to trust in God.

When you thought I wasn't looking,
I saw you make a meal and take it to a friend who was sick,
And I learned that we all have to help take care of each other.

When you thought I wasn't looking,
I saw you give of your time and money to help people who had nothing
And I learned that those who have something should give to those who don't.

When you thought I wasn't looking,
I saw you take care of your house and everyone in it,
And I learned we have to take care of what we are given.

When you thought I wasn't looking,
I saw how you handled your responsibilities,
Even when you didn't feel well,
And I learned that I would have to be responsible when I grow up.

When you thought I wasn't looking,
I saw tears come from your eyes and
I learned that sometimes things hurt, but it's alright to cry.

When you thought I wasn't looking,



I saw that you cared,
And I wanted to be everything that I could be.

When you thought I wasn't looking,
I learned most of life's lessons that I needed to know to be a good and productive
person
when I grow up.

When you thought I wasn't looking,
I looked at you and wanted to say,
"Thanks for all the things I saw when you thought I wasn't looking."

Blessing for Grandparents and Special Visitors

Reader: Student/Teacher

As we come to the end of our prayer service we will pray our final blessing. Could all our grandparents and special visitors who are visiting with us today, please stand?

Loving God,

Bless all grandparents and special people in the lives of these children.

Those gathered with us here today, those who cannot be with us and those who have gone to be with you.

May they heed your call to share their wisdom and faith with us.

May they have courage and confidence to hand on your gifts of experience and knowledge, of stories, songs and memories.

May they continue to learn and grow with us day by day.

Bless them with length of days and joy at the last.

We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

All: Amen

Let us end our prayer service today with the Sign of the Cross. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

Final Song

Could be a hymn or a popular song.

Suggestion:

Andrew Chinn's- An African Blessing (*People of Peace*). Sing the song through once and then continue singing as the students leave the space in their classes.

Reader: Leader/Principal

This draws our prayer service to a close. We thank you for coming and for always being there to support your children and our school community.

