



Child Abuse Prevention Month 2012

Pray for 100

April is child abuse prevention month. Each year in our country, as many as **900,000** children and youth are abused.

This year, **2012**, we celebrate the **100th Anniversary** of the **Diocese of Grand Island**. In our diocese there are over **9,000 children, youth, and adult leaders**. If we all made the commitment this year to **pray for 100** children during the month of **April** all **900,000 children** would be **remembered in prayer**.

Please consider using the **enclosed materials** in your religious education programs during the month of April.

Prayer for 100 Children

Prayer Rock

Instructions for use of Materials:

Ask students in advance to bring a small smooth rock (small enough to fit in their closed hand) to class to use in an art project. (Gather and bring some additional rocks for those who forget to bring a rock on project day.)

From the next page, select a project for decorating rocks that fits your available time and skill level of your class.

As students are working on their projects, tell them that April is Child Abuse Prevention Month. Talk about how God loves us, created us in his image, and desires right relationships for us. Tell students, “We learn about the kind of loving relationships God desires for us in the words of Jesus in the Gospel.” Remind students of the things we do to help children and adults have right relationships (e.g. “Know the Rules”).

Tell students that we are going to make a prayer rock. Discuss how sometimes when bad things happen, or when we don’t have right relationships in our lives we can feel cold and alone. Ask them to pick up their rock. Encourage them to notice how the rock feels cold. Ask them to fold their hands around the rock (as if in prayer) and notice how the rock warms. Tell the students, “Much in the same way our folded hands warm the rock, we can provide comfort to others through our prayers.”

Distribute the prayer rock poem and prayer for 100 card. Discuss the fact that there are many children who are not in right relationships and are in need of our prayers. (For older grade levels you may feel comfortable sharing the statistics—900,000 children are abused in our country each year). This year our diocese celebrates its 100th year. If we all commit to praying for 100 children. Then all will be held in prayer.



Project Ideas

Project A (All Ages):

Have students wash their rock with soap and water (if a sink is available), a damp paper towel, or cleansing wipe. Dry rocks thoroughly with a paper towel. Use school glue or craft glue to glue a "100" (enclosed) to their rock.

Optional: Spray rocks with shellac or coat them with Mod Podge (decoupage finish), polyurethane, or clear nail polish; and allow to dry.

Project B (All Ages):

Have students wash their rock with soap and water (if a sink is available), a damp paper towel, or cleansing wipe. Dry rocks thoroughly with a paper towel. Provide students with crayons, permanent markers, or paint pens and let them decorate their rocks. Use school glue or craft glue to glue a "100" (enclosed) to their rock.

Optional: Spray rocks with shellac or coat them with Mod Podge (decoupage finish), polyurethane, or clear nail polish; and allow to dry.

Project C (Upper Elementary through High School):

Have students wash their rock with soap and water (if a sink is available), a damp paper towel, or cleansing wipe. Dry rocks thoroughly with a paper towel. Provide students with craft paint (avoid tempera or water color paints as the color will wash or rub off) and brushes and let them decorate their rocks. Use school glue or craft glue to glue a "100" (enclosed) to their rock.

Optional: Spray rocks with shellac or coat them with Mod Podge (decoupage finish), polyurethane, or clear nail polish; and allow to dry.

Project D (Middle / High School Youth):

Have students wash their rock with soap and water (if a sink is available), a damp paper towel, or cleansing wipe. Place rocks on a cookie sheet or other oven proof pan and heat in oven at 225 degrees for 15 minutes. Use an oven mitt to move the rocks to a surface covered with several layers of newspaper. Provide students with crayons. Hold a crayon to a rock until the wax starts to melt, and swirl designs with other puddles of melted wax to create a marbled effect. Allow rocks to cool.

Optional: Spray rocks with shellac or coat them with Mod Podge (decoupage finish), polyurethane, or clear nail polish ;and allow to dry.

Please note: if you choose not to add a finish, the colored wax may melt off if exposed to direct sunlight or kept in a warm environment.