**Congregational Prayers for Toddler Groups**

Lord Jesus,

We thank you for the ministry of our toddler group.

Each week, as adults and children attend, may they feel part of your family, as our leaders welcome them into this church.

May our toddler group be a safe place where everyone can express themselves and their own personalities. May it be a place that shares one another’s joys and sorrows. May it be an environment that gives love and support in practical ways as its leaders reach out and show the love that you give to all people.

We thank you that you come alongside each individual person, knowing their needs, their vulnerability, their pressures and their worries. You see each person even when they try and hide from you, and we thank you that you notice us and are never too busy to spend time with us.

In the busyness of life and the things that crowd our lives, may our church see all people as you do and come alongside them, giving them time and opportunity to share what life is like for them.

As adults and children attend our toddler group, may they sense your love and your acceptance from the whole of this church, and we ask you to help and equip its leaders each week as they take the time to listen, to talk and to guide them nearer to you.

We thank you, Lord Jesus, that you came to seek and to save the lost. Please give us that desire to follow in your footsteps as we welcome one and welcome all.

In your precious name we pray,

Amen.

**Major Claire Hill, Winton**

Lord,

We are told in Scripture to let the little children come to you. Today I bring to you all those little children who attend parent-and-toddler groups across our territory.

We pray for each child and their families, that they will be shown your love through the interactions they have with these groups.

We pray for the leaders and all the volunteers who help to run parent-and-toddler groups. We pray for the conversations that take place, for the interactions with families, and for all the hard work that goes into each week.

Lord, please use our parent-and-toddler groups to shine your light into their local communities and to be a safe place for families to come into and learn more about you. May your love be shown to them in the people they meet and the conversations which take place.

In your name we pray.

Amen.

**Captain Clare Davis, Leigh-on-Sea**

Dear Lord,

We are so thankful that children are important to you. We learn from your word how you welcomed them and blessed them.

Today we pray for our parent-and-toddler groups. We are thankful for each child who attends, and we pray that as they come, as they learn about you, they will know how much you love them.

We pray too for our leaders who look after these groups week by week. As you have blessed us with the joy and care of children, may our hearts be open to the needs of the families who attend our groups. Help us to show your love to all. Amen.

**Major Sally McBride, Belfast North Corps**

Thank you, God, for the many parent-and-toddler groups that we have. We pray for strength for the teams who run them and that you would be in their many conversations as they share your love in this practical way.

**Shelley Gallagher, Horsham**

Lord Jesus,

We thank you that you set us the example of welcoming children and valuing them for your Kingdom.

We thank you for all the babies, toddlers, parents, grandparents and carers whom we have the privilege of welcoming each week to our toddler groups.

Thank you for the opportunities we have of showing and sharing your love, of being a safe space for parents to come and meet, and where our toddlers can grow and flourish.

Guide us in the conversations we have with our toddler families. Help us to be bold but sensitive, in speaking of our faith and the difference you make to our lives.

May we constantly look for ways of being your light and a beacon of welcome and acceptance.

We praise you for this valuable ministry and ask your blessing upon every toddler family that we are able to support.

We make our pray in the powerful name of Jesus. Amen.

**Major Sharen Furlong, Enfield/North London DHQ**