**World Day of Prayer**

**Prepared by the WDP Committee of Palestine**

**March 1st, 2024**

**“I Beg You… Bear With One Another in Love”**

**Children’s Program**

**Theme -** “I Beg You… Bear With One Another in Love”

**Scripture Passage -** Ephesians 4:1-3

**Goal –** Encourage children to love and support others

**Preparation**

* Create a safe and comfortable space for the children.

**Activity**

* Start with a game that encourages community or teamwork
* Learn to sing *I Urge You* by Najwa Hashweh Azazian
* Look at the olive tree picture by Anoush vosguerichian

*Ask:* Do you know what kind of tree this is?

*Explain:* The olive tree is common in Palestine, which is the land where Jesus was born. Olive trees can live for thousands of years, so some of the olive trees in Palestine today were there when Jesus was alive!

*Ask:* Do you see the people holding hands? Why do you think they are holding hands? When do you hold hands with other people? How does it make you feel to hold hands with someone?

*Explain:* When we hold hands, we feel stronger and less alone. When we hold hands, we know that others are with us, and we don’t have to be afraid.

* Sing *I Urge You*

*Ask:* Do you know what it means to “bear with someone”?

*Explain:* To “bear with someone” means to stand with them, even when it is difficult. When we bear with each other during hard times, we feel stronger and less alone.

* Read scripture passage – Ephesians 4:1-3
* Ask children to share stories about when they felt stronger because someone else was with them
* Learning about Palestinian Children

Now, let’s listen to a song from Gaza. This song is called *Ma’qoul*, which means “possible” in Arabic. The song asks this question: Is it possible for the world to become different? Is it possible for the world to have more love? Is it possible for us to stand together, so that no-one feels alone?

Listen to *Ma’qoul*

* Art activity - Trace the childrens’ hands on colored paper, and cut them out. Put each child’s hands on a large picture of a tree (it could be a large print of the Anoush drawing)

*Explain:* We are like branches of an olive tree, rooted in the love of God. We are stronger when we stay together.

* Snack

*Explain:* Now, we are going to eat together. We will have bread dipped in olive oil. Olive oil comes from the olive tree, which we talked about today. Before we eat, let’s all hold hands and say a prayer.

*God, thank you for bringing us all together.*

*Thank you for the Palestinians who have shared this message with us.*

*Help us to stay together, so that all people feel loved and supported.*

*Amen.*

**Additional Suggestions:**

* Make a Tik Tok video during the implementation of the artwork.
* Use the hashtag #WDPwebear; #ChildrenOfGod
* Learn the Arabic word for peace - Salaam

**Resources:**

Artwork by Anoush vosguerichian – *Olive Tree*. Created originally for the 2024 program prepared by WDP Palestine. Used by permission.

Song of Najwa Hashweh Azazian - *I Urge You.* Based on Ephesians 4:1-3, Music by Najwa Hashweh Azazian. Composed originally for the 2024 program prepared by WDP Palestine. Used by permission.

Song from Gaza - *Ma’qoul*. <https://youtu.be/Uct485Bt9Q0.> © ESNCM 2021, Used by permission

Copyright © 2022 World Day of Prayer International Committee, Inc.

**“I Beg You… Bear With One Another in Love”** was prepared by the World Day of Prayer Committee of Palestine for the worship service and educational activities for the 2024 World Day of Prayer (WDP) annual celebration. WDP materials are developed for the exclusive use of WDP programs organized by national or local committees and their partner organizations. For any other use, materials from the WDP 2024 Resource Packet may not be reproduced without the permission of World Day of Prayer International Committee (WDPIC).

*Limited reproduction rights granted*—Bible study, Worship Service, Country Background, Children’s Program, Artwork and Artist Statement, WDP composed songs and photos may be reproduced—printed or electronically—for WDP activities with congregations and groups, if appropriate credit is given. WDP National/Regional Committees are permitted to resell reproductions of the resources for the purposes of the WDP program.

Only WDP National/Regional Committees connected with WDPIC can make the resource packet or sections of the materials available online. Committees that make materials available online must ensure groups and individuals who access the online materials are accountable to the committee.

The songs suggested for the worship service and children’s program include copyrighted information from the publishers. Permission to reproduce or translate the songs must be obtained from the publishers. WDPIC only gives permission to reproduce or translate the songs that are originally composed for WDP programs.

Any offerings or funds collected related to WDP activities must be reported to WDP committees.

Scripture quotations are from the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible, copyright © 1989 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the U.S.A. and are used by permission. All rights reserved.

For further information, please, contact:

World Day of Prayer International Committee

475 Riverside Drive Room 729

New York, NY. 10115. USA

admin@worlddayofprayer.net - [http://worlddayofprayer.net](http://worlddayofprayer.net/)