



Greetings Friends,

Watching things grow is exciting and encouraging. The growth of children and youth is arguably the most exciting. To notice it we need to pause, and mark the height chart, take a photo, and listen to the new experiences and ideas of our young people.

The Salvation Army's International Day of Children and Youth (April 28) is an opportunity to pause, notice and encourage the growth in our children and youth.

Throughout history God has used children and youth in important ways from leadership to prophesy and as an example of how we enter the Kingdom of God. While still developing, they are complete human beings who God continues to call into active discipleship.

This year's resources, produced by the Korean Territory, have a theme of GROW based on the parable of the Mustard seed in Matt 13:31-33. They include,

1. Intergenerational Meeting plan - time to share stories and listen to each other.
2. Questions & Activities - for use at home or ministry setting.
3. Life Devotional - 1 week
4. Sermon outline - a guide to let the children & youth speak a message for today.
5. Theme song - in K-pop style

[The resources can be found here](#) and include social media tiles, printable resources, and video guides.

On April 28 (or another suitable date) we invite you to mark the discipleship growth in children and youth. These resources can be a tool to listen and learn of the challenges they face today, to pray with them, and strengthen their place in the faith community.

As a priesthood of **ALL** believers, it is important that we continuously celebrate and make room for children and youth as valuable and active participants in our faith communities. What might we have to change or stop doing to be more inclusive of them? When was the last time we listened to their stories? How could we regularly include their voice? These are important questions to ask as we seek to help them build a faith that will last.

God is at work in them. Let's continue to partner with God and nurture and support their spiritual growth and development. Thank you for your support of children and youth.

Yours sincerely,

Marty Herring  
Children's Secretary

Adam and Mel Purcell  
Youth & Young Adults Secretaries