

Who cares?

Thank you, as you stand with the 38,000 children coming into care this year alone.

The Untapped Potential of Josiah through: 2 Chronicles 34:3-7

In the midst of the Old Testament lies a biography of a child king, Josiah, who despite difficulties rose to be one of the great kings through resilience, faith and the support of those around him.

At 8 years old Josiah was placed on the throne of Judah, both his father and grandfather are described as Kings who 'did evil in the eyes of the Lord' (2 Kings 21:2, 20), and many would have written him off before his reign truly began.

When he was 16, he began to seek the Lord, and by the age of twenty, had started to lead the nation back towards God. Behind Josiah's successful reign were the people who guided him in those formative years. It was due to these people's guidance that Josiah defied the odds and became one of the greatest kings of the Old Testament.

Reflection: We can read stories like Josiah's and treat them purely as historical, however there are many Josiahs alive today; young people who come from difficult and challenging places, who may limit their own potential or even have it limited by others. Children who need people around them to encourage, guide and help propel them into a bright future. Therefore, let's pray for people to be placed around children in the care system who can help them reach their potential, know there is a God who loves them, and develop belief in themselves.

An everyday practice of prayer.

Last month we invited you, as you get out your keys (hopefully with your Who Cares? Home for Good keyring on!) to open your front door and enter your home, to give thanks for this place of belonging God has provided for you. Then bring to God in prayer those children and young people for whom 'home' is a place of difficulty and even trauma, asking ourselves what role we might play in their lives. Keep this question live through the year as you open your front door.

This month, may we invite you to seek out a foster carer, adoptive parent or supported lodgings host in your church or community. Share with them the reflection above on Josiah and encourage them that what they're doing matters as they positively guide children and young people in their formative years. It may not feel like it to them, but they are making a huge difference! Then daily, pray for more people to be stirred to foster, adopt or provide supported lodgings who can do likewise.

Prayer requests for May 2024

Please join us in prayer

This month we're focusing on Children entering Foster Care and their Carers:

- Pray for children and young people entering care, who feel hopeless and scared at all the unknowns, pray that God will give them peace.
- Pray they have the boldness and courage to share how they are feeling and be listened to.
- Pray for positive "guiding voices" to come alongside them and provide support, as people did with Josiah.
- Pray for each child in foster care today that God would fill their hearts with purpose, that they would know God's love and sense that there is a plan and purpose for their lives.

Pray for Foster Carers:

- Pray for foster carers who may feel nervous themselves as new children or young people join them, pray for assurance for them.
- Pray for those that may feel that what they are doing isn't making enough of a difference, pray that they be encouraged. Ask God to show you pictures/ words as encouragement for them.
- Thank God for the commitment of foster carers and pray for God to bless them and their homes, that they would continue to feel energised, excited and passionate about supporting these children and young people on their journey.
- Pray for foster carers to have the patience and capacity to support the children and young people placed with them in the next part of their journey.

Home for Good has lots of upcoming events, from online information evenings to our rated "excellent" foundations course. Follow [this link](#) to see what's happening in your area and what you can get involved in.

Thank you again for being part of this growing movement of prayer, we encourage you to **SHARE [this pledge](#) with others to join us and help hold 38,000 children in prayer this year.**