

## We Are the Hands of God



Lord, help these hands be hands of comfort.

Lord, help us lift these hands in prayer.

Lord, help us use these hands to serve.

Lord, help us use these hands to celebrate.

Lord, help us extend these hands in invitation.

Lord, help us join our hands in community.

Loving Father, we place our hands in yours. As we reflect on your call and our response, let us never forget that we are the hands of Jesus. Bless us and all who we touch today and every day. Amen

### **A reading inspired by the Gospel of Mark.**

Some people brought teenagers to Jesus for him to place his hands on them. But some of the other adults in the parish scolded the people. "Send the teens away they said.

...they'll just mess up the parish hall.

...they'll goof around during Mass.

...they won't wear the right clothes to church.

...they'll play their loud music wherever they go.

...they'll use all the money in the parish budget.

...they'll drop chip and pretzel crumbs all over our new kitchen.

...they would rather go to the mall anyway.

Just forget about them until they are adults and know how to act.

When Jesus heard this, he was angry and said the parishioners: "Let the teenagers come to me and do not stop them, because the Kingdom of God belongs to such as these. I assure you whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a teenager, will never enter it." Then he took the teenagers in his arms, placed his hands on each of them, and blessed them.

This prayer is taken from Chapter 4 of *Getaways With God, Youth Retreats For Any Schedule*, by: Maryann Hakowski pages 82-84