

This sampler was taken from

180 PRAYERS TO
CHANGE
The
WORLD
FOR KIDS

JANICE THOMPSON

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YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

Sure, you're just a kid, but you can still change the world around you. Think about those words for a moment. No matter where you come from, where you live, what school you go to, or what grade you're in, God can use you to make a difference for eternity. Whether you have red hair and freckles, blue eyes or brown, you can stir things up (in a good way!) in the lives of those around you. God wants to use you. Yes, you, the kid with the peanut butter on your face and mismatched socks on your feet. Isn't that cool? He says you're a world changer. Don't you love that? It's time to start seeing yourself as someone who can bring change to the world, kiddo. That's why this book was written: to help you pray. Check it out! Every day you'll find a new topic, a prayer, a scripture, and a "be the change" activity—something you can do to grow in your faith or to help others. (Note: some activities might require help from a grown-up!) Nothing can hold you back when you start to see yourself as a world changer. What are you waiting for? Let's go!



RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS



But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope.

1 THESSALONIANS 4:13 ESV



Random acts of kindness. They're so fun, Lord! I love dreaming up all sorts of ideas—things I can do to bless kids, grown-ups, friends, family members, or even strangers. Coaches, teachers, the clerk at the supermarket. . .I want to bless them all with unexpected encouragement and surprises. Elderly neighbors, coworkers, expectant moms. . .they all need Your touch and a reminder that they are not alone. I need Your help to come up with creative ideas. What a great time we're going to have—You and me—dreaming up cool things to let these amazing people know You haven't forgotten them. Let's get started, Lord! Amen.

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BE THE CHANGE

Surprise a stranger by complimenting them.



IN THE SAME WAY



*In the same way, let your light shine before others,
so that they may see your good works and give
glory to your Father who is in heaven.*

MATTHEW 5:16 ESV



Lord, I know the only chance I have of making a real difference in this world is to follow the example of Your Son, Jesus. He stepped w-a-y outside of His comfort zone and approached people in practical ways. If they needed food, He made sure they had food. Yum! If they needed healing, He healed them. Amazing! Best of all, He took the time to get to know each person, to check out their needs before fixing their problem. That way, they truly felt cared for. Today, please point out someone I can help, a person who needs a little light in his or her life. I want to get to know that person, Lord. Maybe they need a friend like me. I want to be the hands and feet of Jesus to someone in need, I pray. Amen.

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BE THE CHANGE

*Give in a sacrificial way, as Jesus did,
and offer to clean out your parents' garage or attic.*



WORLD CHANGERS



Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”

JOHN 8:12 ESV



I've been reading Bible stories of the lives You changed—Abram, Moses, David, Rahab, Jonah and so many more. Whew! There's quite a list of world changers in there! Not all of these people were willing at first. I can't blame them for being scaredy-cats! I get a little nervous myself. But here's the cool part: You used every one of these people to change the world. They made a big difference in the lives of others wherever they went. I want to be like that, Lord! Today I choose to give up my fear (Oh, help!) and to look for those who are in need. Give me Your ears to hear and Your eyes to see. I want to shine brightly, Lord, but not in my own strength. May I never forget—You're the leader, Jesus. I'm the follower. Amen.

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BE THE CHANGE

Ask a parent to take you to a local soup kitchen to volunteer. You might just make a few friends along the way.



PAY IT FORWARD



*God looked at the light and saw that it was good.
He separated light from darkness.*

GENESIS 1:4 CEV



One of the things I love most about You, Lord, is that You always pay it forward. You bless me knowing I will want to bless others. How fun! It's like a little game we play. I come up with fun and random ideas to surprise people (just to bring a smile to their faces). They get excited and pay it forward by blessing someone else. I love this game! It's the gift that keeps on giving! Show me how to pay it forward every single day, in little ways and in big ones too. I want my life to be filled with adventure, every day filled with opportunities to bless others and share Your light as I go along. This is so exciting, Lord! I'm grateful to be used by You. Amen.

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BE THE CHANGE

Pay it forward—do a good deed for someone that encourages them to pass it along.



YOUR BEST GIFT



*Light in a messenger's eyes brings joy to the heart,
and good news gives health to the bones.*

PROVERBS 15:30 NIV



I don't always feel like I have a lot to give, Lord. I don't have a lot of money, after all! Sometimes I even get a little sad thinking about this. I'm just a kid, but I want to do big things. Then I remember. . .You're not limited by money. There are a zillion ways I can impact the lives of those around me without spending a penny. I can send encouraging notes, offer to mow someone's lawn, even bless an elderly neighbor with the gift of a visit and some cookies. Today, please show me some creative, inexpensive ways I can reach out to my neighbors, my friends, elderly loved ones, and those in need. I can't wait to grab a pen and paper to make my list! Amen.

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BE THE CHANGE

Visit with an elderly neighbor and ask them about their life.



A CITY ON A HILL



*You are the light of the world.
A town built on a hill cannot be hidden.*

MATTHEW 5:14 NIV



Lord, one of the hardest things about being a Christian is this whole “shining bright” thing. I’m kind of shy sometimes. I don’t want to draw attention to myself. It’s embarrassing, especially when I’m hanging out with my friends who don’t know You! Instead of shining like a city on a hill, I want to hide in the corner or keep my faith to myself. I get a little scared, if You want the truth. But You didn’t create me to hide my light under a bushel. There are people out there who need glimpses of Your love, and You long for me to shine bright so that I can draw them to You. So, here I go, Lord! No more hiding for me. Ready, set, shine! Amen.

BE THE CHANGE

Why not host a sandwich-making party and have a parent help you deliver your meals to the homeless? They will appreciate it, and you’ll have fun with the prep work.



LIGHTING THE HOUSE



*No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket.
Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it
gives light to everyone in the house.*

MATTHEW 5:15 NLT



Wow, what a cool scripture, Lord! Even back in Bible times, people knew that lifting up the light would make it stretch farther. The lights in my house are mostly on the ceiling. I flip a switch and the room floods with light because the beams are shining down from above, spreading out over everything below. The whole room comes alive with light! That's how I want to be, Father, a bright light that draws people to You, not myself. I don't want to hide myself away under a basket or bushel. May every deed, every action, flood lives with heavenly beams of light that point directly to You so that everyone might come to know You. Amen.

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BE THE CHANGE

Offer to do some yard work for a neighbor.



NOT OVERCOME



*The light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness has not overcome it.*

JOHN 1:5 NIV



So many people are struggling, Lord. It totally breaks my heart! Many are homeless. . .and hopeless. Some people are struggling from paycheck to paycheck, wondering if they'll make it. They don't have much food in the pantry. That makes me so sad! Other people have lost their jobs. That's really scary. Things can seem dark and gloomy. I might be a kid, but I can still make a difference in the lives of those who are going through tough stuff. I don't want people to be overwhelmed in their situations when I'm able to spread Your light through a kind deed or word. With Your help I want to come up with fun ideas to lift spirits and spread the joy. Thanks for the reminder that I can brighten the lives of people who feel like giving up. Amen.

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BE THE CHANGE

*Offer to share your skills in writing, art, or music with
another kid in class who may need the help.*



EARS WIDE OPEN!



Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Whoever has ears, let them hear.

MATTHEW 13:43 NIV



I get it, Lord. You want me to keep my ears tuned in to Your still, small voice at all times—not just when I’m going through tough stuff. Sure, You give me instructions for my own life, but You also long for me to reach out to others and make their lives happier too. So, You give me little taps on the shoulder. You whisper, “That one. She’s the one who needs your help this time.” You’re the One who pointed me in the direction of a friend at school who didn’t have lunch money. You’re the One who reminded me to ask my parents if they would help pay for another friend’s high medical bills. You’re the One who nudges me daily to pray for that teacher who’s going through a rough time. I’m listening, Lord. Ears wide open. May I hear. . .and obey. Amen.

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BE THE CHANGE

Get to know a kid in your class who usually keeps to himself and offer your friendship.



ARISE, SHINE



*Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord rises upon you.*

ISAIAH 60:1 NIV



It's hard to get moving when you've been still for so long. When I've been playing computer games or watching a TV show, I don't want to be bothered. No thanks! It's easier to stay glued to the chair. I say things like, "Someone else will take care of it," or "I'm too busy." Then I'm reminded of the life of Your Son, how—day after day—Jesus went out of His way to help those in need. He didn't waste time on games or TV shows. He healed the sick, talked to people about heaven, and shared love with everyone He met. Jesus kept going and going, even when He was tired. I want to learn from His example, Father. Today I choose to get up off the sofa so that I can impact this world for You. Amen.

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BE THE CHANGE

*Have a parent help you organize
a clean-up party for a local park.*

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STAND UP FOR WHAT YOU BELIEVE * * * * *

*Live wisely among those who are not believers,
and make the most of every opportunity.*

COLOSSIANS 4:5 NLT



Sometimes I feel like I stick out like a sore thumb, Lord. I'm so different from the other kids. I'm surrounded by opposites—people who believe the opposite of me. Sometimes they're big-mouths! They shout what they believe in my ears and insist I agree with them. Ugh. Sometimes I want to put my fingers in my ears and hide under the table. These kids aren't easy to talk to, after all. Usually I just avoid them. Then I'm reminded that standing up for what I believe is a great way to share the Gospel. You're always opening doors for conversations, Lord, so I step right through them. Help me to have the courage to go on speaking truth in love, even when it's hard. Amen.

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BE THE CHANGE

*The next time you're at a restaurant
treat your server with kindness.*



A NEW WAY TO SEE THINGS!



Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

ROMANS 12:2 ESV



This is a cool verse, Lord, but I have a question: Do you *really* mean that my mind can be made brand-new? Seriously? Best. News. Ever! I'm tired of feeling stuck. Going along with the crowd is getting old. But when I hang out with You, You give me a whole new way of looking at things. You really do want to make all things new in my life! I'm listening close because I don't want to miss a thing. I want to know *Your* will, not the opinion of the kid who sits next to me in science class. I want to do the cool thing *You've* got planned for me to do, not the things other kids want me to do. Thank You for making my heart and mind new again, Lord. Amen.

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BE THE CHANGE

Make a list of five times God changed Your mind.



ROOTED



And now, just as you accepted Christ Jesus as your Lord, you must continue to follow him. Let your roots grow down into him, and let your lives be built on him. Then your faith will grow strong in the truth you were taught, and you will overflow with thankfulness.

COLOSSIANS 2:6–7 NLT



I want to be like a tree with deep roots, Lord, so that I don't flip over sideways when strong winds blow. I've noticed that my faith gets stronger during the hard seasons and I know it's because I'm leaning on You, not myself. This can only happen when my roots go w-a-y down deep into the ground—when I spend time reading my Bible and then praying about stuff. I try not to get nervous when I realize other kids are watching how I act. Maybe they're trying to figure out if I'm really a true Christian. They're checking out how I react when bad stuff happens. When my roots go deep, I set a better example for others. So, today I choose to dig deep and to root myself in You. Amen.

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BE THE CHANGE

Take a book to a sick friend.



FIRM, BUT LOVING



*Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith;
be courageous; be strong. Do everything in love.*

1 CORINTHIANS 16:13–14 NIV



I've got the firm thing down, Lord. I know how to play the role of the tough guy. I've done it a lot. Sometimes I'm so firm I hurt other people's feelings. Oops. You want me to put my toughness in the mixer and mix it up with love. In fact, Your Word says I should do everything in love. Everything, Lord? Tough conversations with friends? Dealing with my kid sister? Talking to a teacher who's upset at me for not turning in my homework? Dealing with that girl who gives me such a tough time during P.E.? It's hard at times, but I'll give it my best shot because I know that others are watching. They see when I flip out. Help me, Father. May I always reflect You. Amen.

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BE THE CHANGE

*Ask a parent to help you get
groceries for a sick neighbor.*



NO SHAME HERE



For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

ROMANS 1:16 ESV



Lord, I always tell people that I'm not ashamed of my faith, but I wonder if I'm being totally honest. There are times when I feel weird talking to others about Jesus and heaven and going to church. Some of them really don't get it. They treat me like I'm a weirdo. Things can get awkward, so I usually just clam up and don't mention it. I don't want to make people think I'm too different from the rest of the kids. Show me how to get over those nervous feelings, Lord. I want to share the Gospel message with kids in school, in the neighborhood, and even when I'm playing sports. I want to make a difference in this world, Father, even when speaking the truth is hard. Amen.

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BE THE CHANGE

Donate your old toys and books that you no longer use.



ALL THE WORLD



And he said to them, “Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation.”

MARK 16:15 ESV



Confession time! I'm not the bravest kid in the world. Sometimes my knees start knocking when I try to talk to my best friend about my faith. I can't even imagine traveling across the globe to talk to total strangers! I know that You can use me in any situation, so today I ask You to do just that, Lord. No matter where I am—at school, at play, at home, or on a trip with my family—You can speak through me to others. It doesn't have to be weird. Talking about You can happen in such a natural way that I don't even have to stress out about it. Every kid I come in contact with is one You died to save. When I remember that, talking with them about You is so much easier. Amen.

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BE THE CHANGE

*Ask a parent to help you host
a blanket drive for the homeless.*



BE WHO YOU SAY YOU ARE



Above all else, you must live in a way that brings honor to the good news about Christ. Then, whether I visit you or not, I will hear that all of you think alike. I will know that you are working together and that you are struggling side by side to get others to believe the good news.

PHILIPPIANS 1:27 CEV



Lord, I want to be the real deal. No phony baloneys here! When people hang out with me at my house, I want them to see the same person they see at school. No faking it. I want to bring honor to Your name, in good times and in bad, in public and in private. I never want my faith to be a turnoff to those who are watching. Instead, I want them to look at me and say, “Wow! Now that’s a kid I can really trust!” Help me to live in a way that brings honor to Your Name, Lord. I want to be a true reflection of You, so others will get jump-up-and-down excited to learn more about You. Amen.

BE THE CHANGE

Instead of saying, “I’ll be praying for you,” when a friend is in need, stop and pray for that person—right then, right there.



ALWAYS PREPARED



But in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect.

1 PETER 3:15 ESV



It happens sometimes, Lord. I'm in the middle of a conversation with someone and say something about my faith. They roll their eyes and say something not-so-nice about Christianity—or about You. It really bugs me! I wish everyone would just agree with me. . .but of course they don't. You've given us free will, and many of the kids I know use it to stay as far away from Christianity as possible. They don't want anything to do with You. But I won't give up. I want to be ready—as this verse says—always prepared to make a defense for the hope that is in me. My testimony (my story of what You've done in my life) is the most powerful tool I've got and I'm so excited to share it, no matter how the other kids respond. Thanks for the opportunity to shine Your light. Amen.

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BE THE CHANGE

*Share the story of how you came to know
Jesus with your best friend.*



Be BOLD!



But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

ACTS 1:8 NIV



I feel like such a weakling at times, Lord, like I don't have an ounce of power inside of me. Then, just about the time I'm ready to pull the covers over my head, You rush in like a mighty wind and give me supernatural energy. Wow! The power that comes from Your Holy Spirit is different from anything I've ever experienced! I won't find it in an energy drink, or even through exercise or sports. Your heaven-sent power causes miracles to happen! It gives me courage to share my story with others. It also opens doors and gives me awesome opportunities to make a difference in this world. Thanks for this extra burst of boldness, Lord! Amen.

BE THE CHANGE

Invite a friend over to watch Christian movies or read some Bible stories.



HIS NAME IS EXALTED



And you will say in that day: “Give thanks to the Lord, call upon his name, make known his deeds among the peoples, proclaim that his name is exalted.”

ISAIAH 12:4 ESV



Lord, I don't always remember to exalt (lift up) Your Name, but today I'm going to make up for that. I want to be a kid who really, truly loves You—with my words, my actions, and my prayers. So, I'll get right to it! You're an awesome, amazing God, and I love being Your kid. I have so much to be thankful for—an amazing family, good friends, food, a home to live in, clothes to wear. I know that all of that comes from You. Your Word says that You will take care of us, and You do. So, I praise You for all You've done. If anyone asks me why I'm so happy today, I'll tell them it's because You've blessed me so much. I praise You. Amen.

BE THE CHANGE

Place a “Jesus is the reason for the season!” sign in your yard during the holidays.

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