

**WELCOME TO THE 2025 NATIONAL OBSERVANCE OF
CHILDREN'S SABBATHS® CELEBRATION**

Faith Expressions: A Multifaith Approach to Children's Sabbath

Celebrating Children Across Traditions

Introduction

Every faith tradition speaks with urgency and tenderness about the dignity of children and the responsibility to protect them. In this section, you will find interfaith and denominational prayers, blessings, rituals, reflections, and sacred texts drawn from Sikhism, Judaism, Islam, Hinduism, Christianity, Buddhism, and the Bahá'í Faith.

These resources are meant for worship and study—and also for collaboration. Children's Sabbaths weekend is an opportunity for communities of faith to come together, weaving their distinct languages and practices into a shared call for justice, compassion, joy, and a call to action on behalf of all children. These expressions are here to help you both integrate multifaith prayers and texts into your own observance and create collaborative spaces where communities learn, pray, and act together.

How to Use This Section

Use these resources in ways that deepen both your tradition's practices and your connections with others:

- Use prayers and blessings from diverse traditions in services, vigils, or family gatherings.
- Read and reflect on sacred texts across traditions, noticing what resonates and what challenges.
- Adapt rituals and reflections for interfaith services, youth groups, or community observances.
- Invite leaders and children from various faith communities to co-lead, ensuring that your Children's Sabbath becomes a visible expression of shared commitment.

These practices help communities experience not only their own faith's witness but also the richness of many traditions in dialogue.

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Multifaith Discussion

outline

This outline provides a framework for leading a Children's Sabbath conversation across traditions. It is adaptable for worship, classrooms, or small groups. The purpose is to listen to diverse voices, reflect together, and move toward action.

Outline

1. Opening: Begin with silence, a blessing, or a song. State the purpose: to hear how faith traditions call us to protect and honor children.
2. Sacred Texts: Read aloud the provided excerpts, inviting children and youth as readers.
3. Reflection: What values echo across traditions? What new insights do you hear?
4. Collaborative Action: Identify one way to act together. Consider a symbolic ritual to seal the commitment.
5. Closing: End with a blessing or prayer, followed by a shared commitment.



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Multifaith Discussion

Activity

Who this is activity for: Organizers, facilitators, interfaith groups

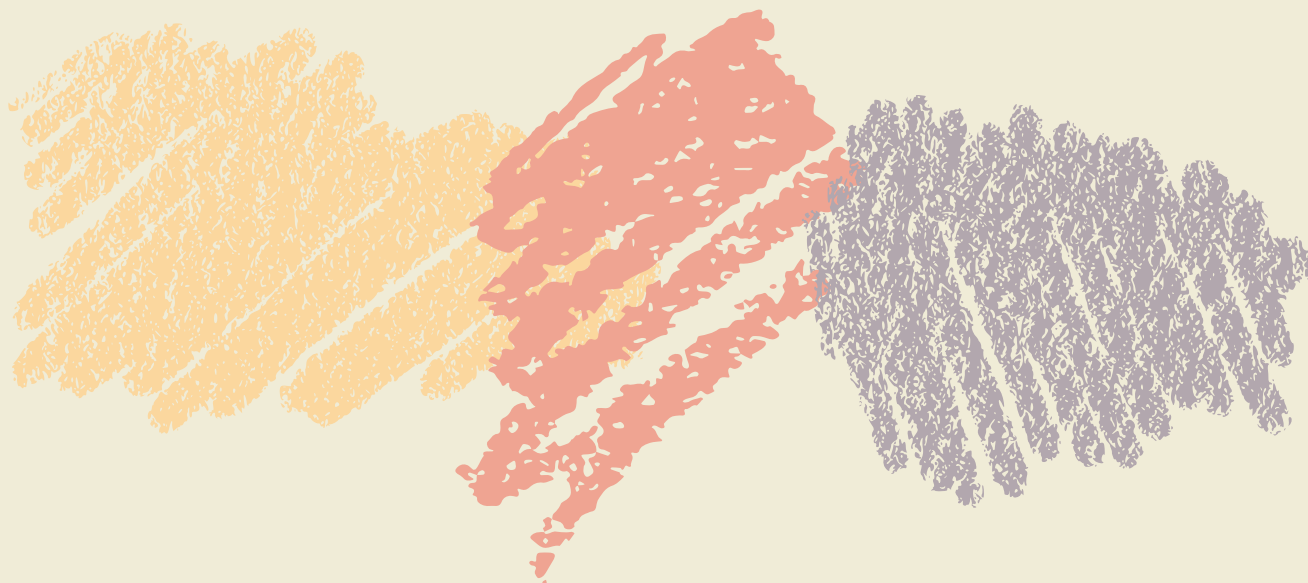
Why we're doing it: To bring people of diverse traditions into dialogue around how their faith calls them to honor and protect children.

Steps

1. Opening: Begin with silence, blessing, or song. State the purpose.
2. Sacred Texts: Invite children/youth to read provided excerpts.
3. Reflection: Ask: "What values echo across traditions? What new insights do you hear?"
4. Collaborative Action: Identify one way to act together.
5. Closing: End with a blessing, prayer, or shared statement.

Facilitator Help:

- Invite multiple traditions into leadership.
- Encourage children/youth as readers.
- Keep time balanced so each voice is honored.

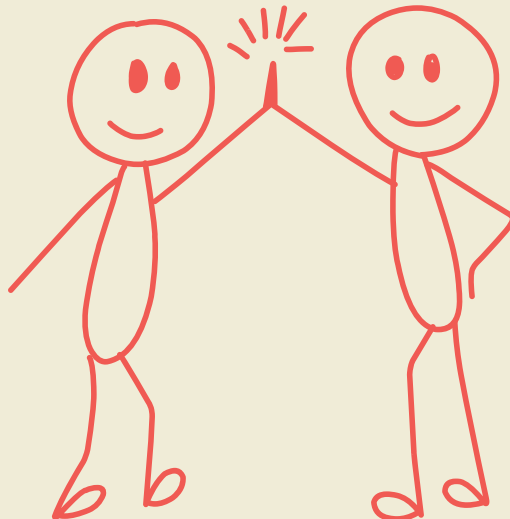


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Model Shared Commitment Statements

Shared commitments are short statements that can be spoken aloud at the end of a service, discussion, or gathering. They give people a chance to affirm together what they have learned and what they will do next. These models can be read as written, spoken responsively, or rewritten in your community's own words. The goal is to leave participants united around a common purpose: justice, protection, and love for children.

- We commit, across our many traditions, to honor every child as sacred and to work together for their flourishing.
- As people of faith, we pledge to stand in solidarity for children's justice, moving beyond comfort toward action.
- May our many voices form one chorus of care, one call for justice, and one promise of love for every child.
- Together, we affirm that protecting and cherishing children is not only the work of our faiths but the work of our shared humanity.



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Model Shared Commitment Statements

Activity

Shared commitments give a community one voice at the end of a gathering. They are short, powerful statements that unite people of different traditions around the shared work of honoring and advocating for children.

Who this is activity for: Worship leaders, organizers, interfaith gatherings


Why we're doing it: To close a multifaith gathering with shared purpose.

Steps

1. Choose one of the sample commitment statements.
2. Speak it aloud together, responsively or in unison.
3. Option: Rewrite in your community's own words.

Facilitator Help:

- Print commitments in bulletins or project on a screen.
- Invite youth to lead the responsive reading.
- Encourage rewriting commitments to reflect local voices.



Together, we
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protecting and
cherishing
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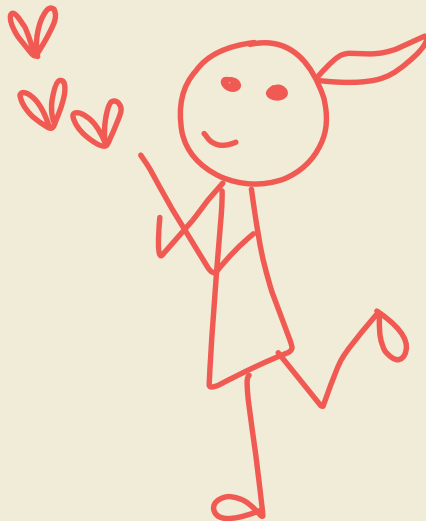
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Sample Multifaith Service Outline

This sample order of service offers one way to bring multiple faith communities together during a Children's Sabbath. It provides a balanced flow of gathering, prayer, sacred texts, reflection, and sending forth. You can adapt this outline by inviting leaders from different traditions to lead the portions that best fit their practice, or by weaving in local customs, songs, or rituals. The structure is a guide—make it your own.

Service Flow

1. Gathering: Opening song or chant; welcome and framing.
2. Sacred Texts & Prayers: Readings from multiple traditions, followed by short prayers or blessings.
3. Reflections: Youth or leaders share brief insights; facilitator highlights common themes.
4. Commitment to Action: Joint prayer of commitment; announcement of one collaborative project or action.
5. Sending: Closing blessing including voices from several traditions; shared song of peace or justice.



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Sample Multifaith Service Outline

Activity

This outline provides a framework for designing a joint service where leaders, children, and communities from different faith traditions pray, sing, and reflect together. It is a guide — not a script — and should be adapted to honor the customs of each tradition.

Who this is activity for: Worship planners, clergy, lay leaders

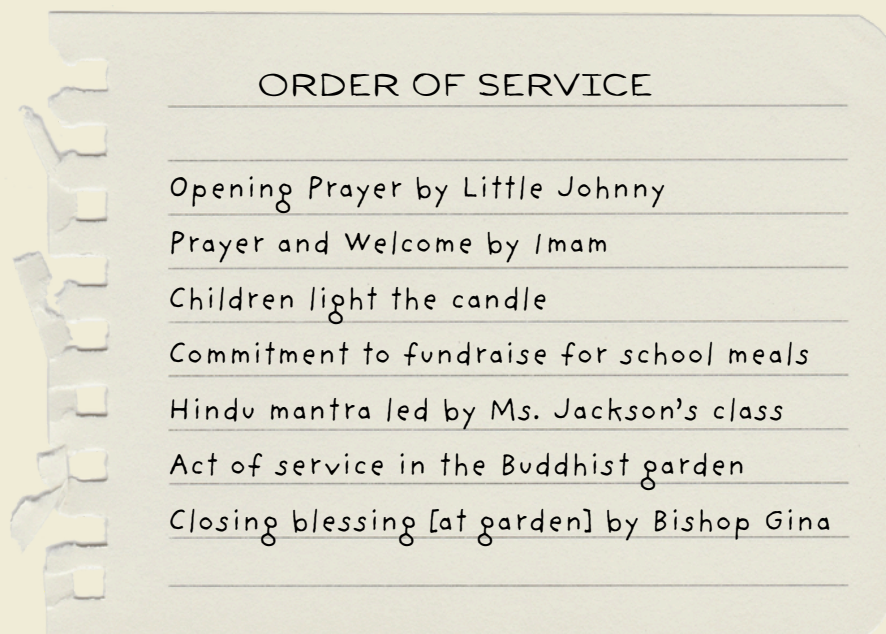
Why we're doing it: To guide worship planners in braiding together voices from different traditions in one Children's Sabbath service.

Steps

1. Gathering: Opening song/chant, welcome, and framing.
2. Sacred Texts & Prayers: Readings from multiple traditions, with short prayers.
3. Reflections: Youth/leaders share insights; facilitator names themes.
4. Commitment to Action: Joint prayer of commitment + action announcement.
5. Sending: Closing blessing and shared song.

Facilitator Help:

- Rotate leadership roles across traditions.
- Involve youth in each section.
- Adapt rituals to respect diverse customs.



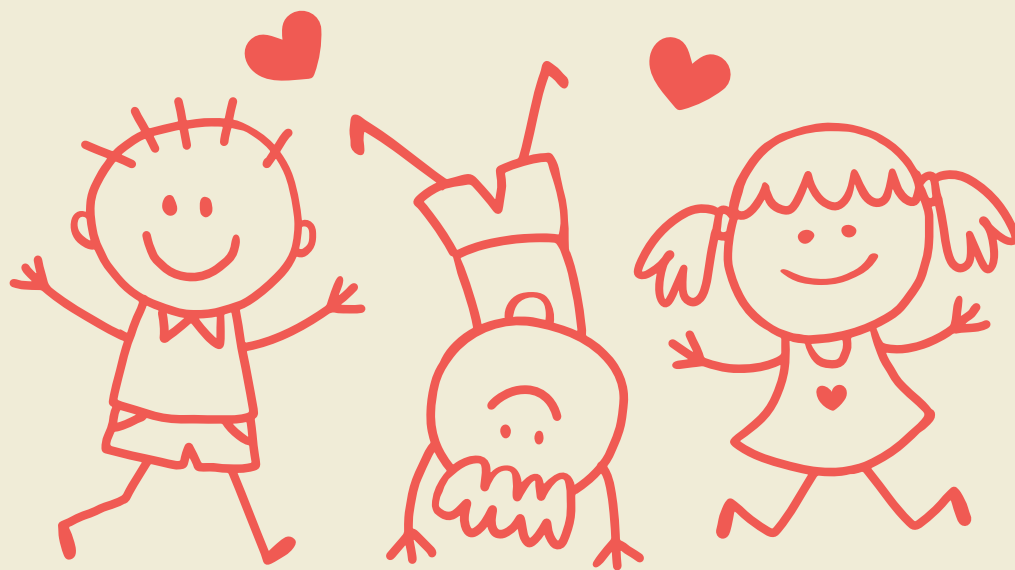
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Children & Youth Engagement

Making Children Leaders, Not Just Participants

Children and youth are not only the focus of Children's Sabbaths—they are also leaders and teachers in it. This section offers ideas for engaging them directly in worship, prayer, and action. These activities give children and youth meaningful roles, invite their creativity, and help them experience interfaith collaboration firsthand. Use these ideas to create space for their voices to shape your observance.

- Invite children/youth to read sacred texts aloud.
- Encourage them to write original prayers or poems to share.
- Host an interfaith art or storytelling project on Beloved Community.
- Let youth lead symbolic rituals such as candle-lighting or blessing peers.



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Children & Youth Engagement

Activity

Children and youth are not only the focus of Children's Sabbath — they are also leaders. This activity offers practical ways to place their creativity and leadership at the center of a multifaith observance.

Who this is activity for: Children, youth leaders, organizers

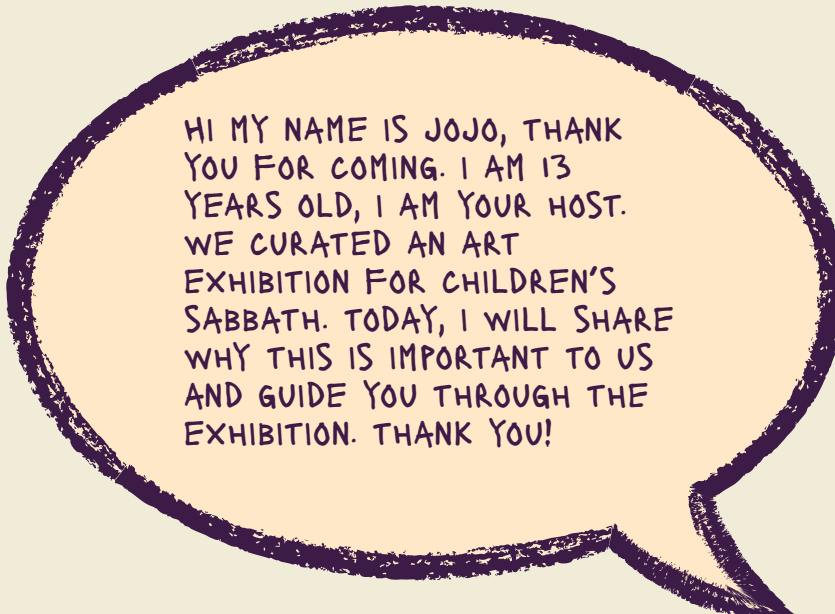
Why we're doing it: To move children and youth from being the focus of Children's Sabbath to being active leaders within it.

Steps

1. Invite youth to read sacred texts.
2. Encourage them to write and share prayers or poems.
3. Host an interfaith art or storytelling project.
4. Let youth lead symbolic rituals (candles, blessings).

Facilitator Help:

- Give youth clear roles and affirm their leadership.
- Provide rehearsal time to build confidence.
- Display youth-created art prominently in worship.



HI MY NAME IS JOJO, THANK
YOU FOR COMING. I AM 13
YEARS OLD, I AM YOUR HOST.
WE CURATED AN ART
EXHIBITION FOR CHILDREN'S
SABBATH. TODAY, I WILL SHARE
WHY THIS IS IMPORTANT TO US
AND GUIDE YOU THROUGH THE
EXHIBITION. THANK YOU!

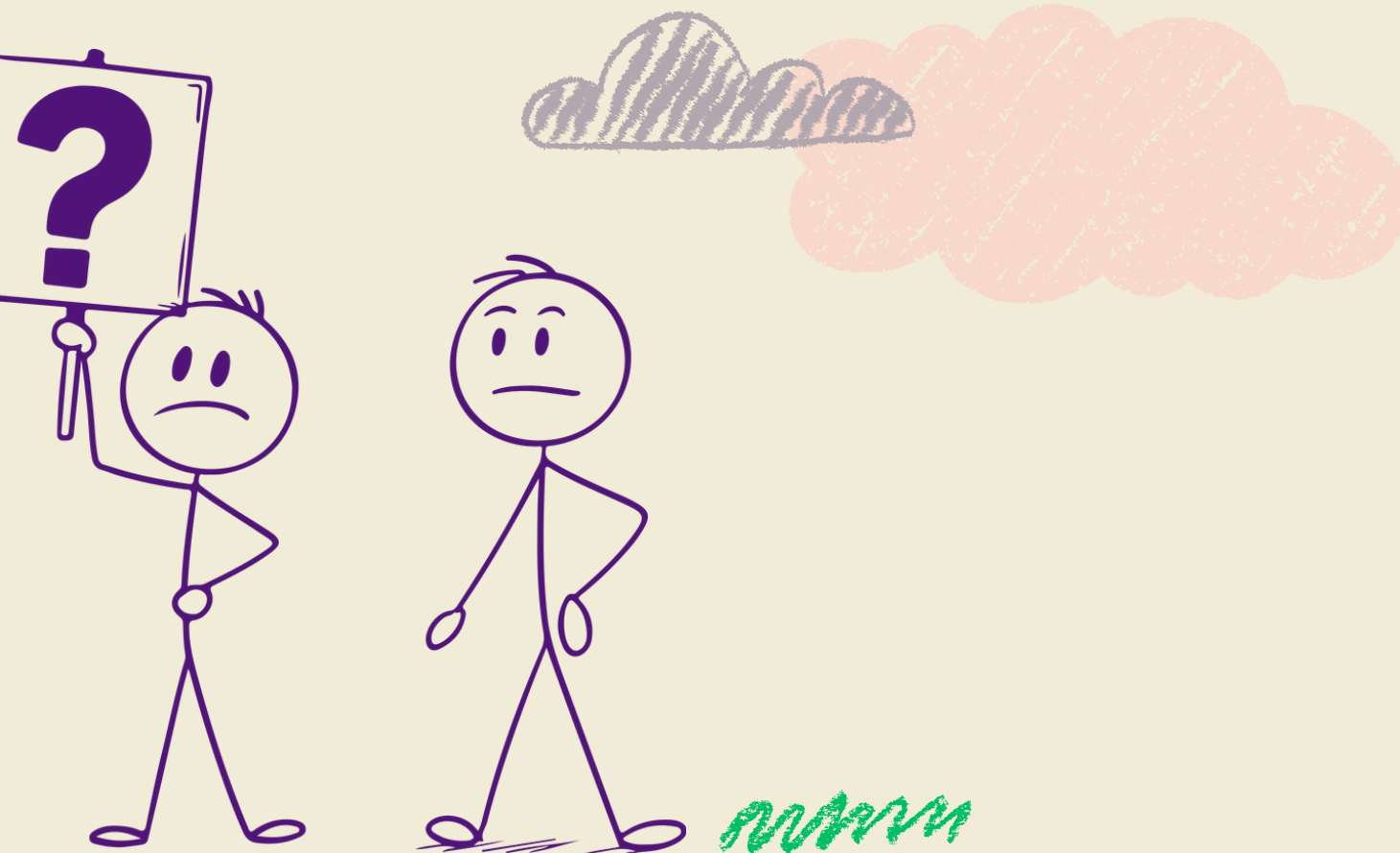
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Community Reflection Questions

Carrying the Conversation Beyond Worship

Your Children's Sabbath can extend beyond worship into everyday conversation. These questions are designed for families, small groups, or entire congregations to reflect together.

- Which sacred text spoke most deeply to you and why?
- How does your tradition encourage care for children?
- What is one way we can act together for children in our community?
- What can we learn from another tradition's teaching that we could put into practice?



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Community Reflection Questions

Activity

Children's Sabbath doesn't end with worship. These questions extend the conversation into daily life, giving families and communities simple ways to reflect together on children, faith, and justice.

Who this is activity for: Families, small groups, entire congregations

Why we're doing it: To extend the Sabbath beyond worship into daily conversations about children, faith, and justice.

Steps

1. Gather as a family, small group, or congregation.
2. Read one question aloud at a time.
3. Invite everyone, including children, to respond.

Facilitator Help:

- Create safe space for honest sharing.
- Encourage children's answers, even if simple.
- End by writing down one action idea to carry forward.



Which sacred text spoke most deeply
to you and why?

How does your tradition encourage
care for children?

What is one way we can act together
for children in our community?

What can we learn from another
tradition's teaching?