



CALL TO ACTION

WEEK 3: LET THE LITTLE CHILDREN THRIVE

- Using the standard Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) survey (<https://www.acesaware.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/ACE-Questionnaire-for-Adults-Identified-English.pdf>), remember and pray for all the people in your community who might answer yes to one or more of the questions on the survey. Ask God to help you become more aware of the impacts of these adverse childhood events on your neighbors' lives and to guide you in knowing how you can help.
- Listen to The Brain Architects podcast episode “Building Resilience through Play” at <https://developingchild.harvard.edu/resources/podcast-resilience-play/>. As you learn more about the science behind the importance of play for children and the many ways play is used to help children build resilience, consider how you might become an active advocate for and participant in play with the children in your life. How might God be calling you to love children through play?
- Gather a group of people in your neighborhood and/or church who are interested in developing more community play spaces. Use this guide from Playful Learning Landscapes (<https://playfullearninglandscapes.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/7/2021/09/Creating-a-Playful-Learning-Environment.pdf>) to inform your discernment and discussion about the best ways to move forward with your ideas. Reach out to other interested parties from your community, including parents and their children, to get them involved in the development and execution of your project, and to ensure that the play space is safe, fun, accessible, and inclusive.
- Pay attention to the needs of children in your area and find ways to advocate for the well-being of children in your community. If you have a heart for children experiencing abuse

and neglect, investigate becoming a child advocate through CASA (<https://www.kansascasa.org>). If you want to help children succeed in school, reach out to local elementary schools about volunteer opportunities or supplies needed in classrooms. If you want to address childhood hunger, connect with a local food bank or food pantry to see how you can help. Whatever inspires you to support childhood well-being, find ways to love God and neighbor by paying attention to the suffering of children and doing what you can to remove stumbling blocks and provide for children's well-being.