



## Children's Day 2017

### JCC iS.H.I.N.E ZONE ( Kidz Church )

We have all celebrated Children's Day but do we know its significance and origins? Frankly speaking, I did not know the answer myself when I first posed this question. As I did some research, I was surprised to that this special day has its Christianity roots!

“Children's Day is an international celebration intended to bring nations together to promote child welfare. Its origins can be traced all the way back to Reverend Dr Charles Leonard, pastor of the Universalist Church of the Redeemer in Chelsea, Massachusetts, who gave a service dedicated to childhood innocence in June 1856. His sermon was so popular that it gave rise to an annual tradition known as Rose Day, later rechristened Flower Day. The first country to declare a national holiday for its youngsters was Turkey, which did so on 23 April 1929. The day is celebrated on various calendar dates in different countries.”

## How did JCC celebrate this day?



## As we enjoy these photos, let us also remember why we celebrate Children's Day...

- It is an affirmation of children and those who work with children.
- It is a celebration of the relationships we enjoy, past experiences - the life we share together.
- It is a time to remember that our children are a gift from God as well as what God has done for our children.
- It is a time when kingdom priorities are made evident: "...and a little child shall lead them" (Isaiah 11:6); "Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it" (Luke 18:16-17). Children show us the way of joy, celebration and love.
- It is a time for the inclusion of children in special and meaningful experiences - to involve them in the life of the church.
- It is a time for modeling love and encouraging parents and teachers in their relationships with their children. Likewise, children model for us the ways that we can be open to the gifts of the Spirit.
- It is a time to rejoice in God's presence, guidance, comfort, power, companionship, and assurance--all of which are given to our children through the Spirit.
- It is a time to mark another year of healthy growth. Spiritual growth is celebrated much like a successful year of growth at the time of the harvest. The Holy Spirit is the agent of this growth, guiding young lives to the truth and instructing them in it.

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