

Gathering Activity/Opening Prayer

Read the prayer below. With one other person, introduce yourselves to one another and then share what part of this prayer made you smile and why.

Gracious God, I know they're only young once...

Grant me the wisdom to guide them down the path that their feet should take,

For I know that they can never turn back and walk those paths with me again.

Give me the wisdom to guide their feet so that someday they'll be able to walk alone.

Gracious God, I know they're only young once...

Give me the time I need to enjoy them, for I know that after they're grown,

I'll never have another chance to tell stories and pretend at those tea parties.

I'll never have another chance to watch them in a school play or to see them catch that first fish or hit that first home run ball.

Give me the time in life's busy schedule to have fun with my children.

Gracious God, I know they're only young once...

Let me be a loving parent.

Let me correct and not punish, explain and not merely scold.

Let me know when to correct, and how often, and when it's best to just look the other way.

Give me patience and a gentle hand to mold them into better people.

Gracious God, I know they're only young once.

Let me be a good teacher and an even better example.

Give me the right words and deeds to teach them.

Grant me the grace to turn their spirits toward Yours.

For they're only young one time,

only innocent and trusting and pliable for a space of time,

one minute in an eternity.

Gracious God, let me do my best for them while I have the chance, I pray through Christ our Lord.

Adapted from Author Unknown

Read more: <http://www.inspirationalarchive.com/276/young-parents-prayer/#ixzz28MEFdKc4>