

# How to Use the **SUPER FRIENDS!** Resource

## Tips for Parents and Teachers

- Use the *Super Friends* resource for children's time during worship.
- Use as a resource for Sunday School or Vacation Bible School.
- Meet with clergy to discuss the resource and how topics in it could be explored with the congregation as a whole. Talk to your minister about including children in the offertory time or in a time for mission.
- Read it at home with children as a bedtime story.
- Help children to compose a song, poem, or drama to share with the congregation.
- Introduce the PWS&D website as a source of information.
- Use this resource to raise awareness of PWS&D.
- Involve others in an inter-generational talk about emergencies in the world.



## Suggested Passages for Bible Study

Mark 12:41-43 (The Widow's Offering)  
John 6:8-13 (Loaves and Fishes)

## Talking To Children about Emergencies

Talking with kids early and often about media stories and images helps them better understand the world and how to deal with their fears about crises. When disaster news fills the media, children of any age will be affected, and some may act out in confusing ways.

### Signs that children may be upset by the news:

1. Reverting to younger behaviour
2. Lower performance in school
3. Constantly talking about the event
4. Expressing fear, helplessness, or guilt.

## Helping Children Deal with the News

1. Limit exposure to the news, and restrict age-inappropriate coverage. Find kid-friendly sources.
2. Listen to the radio or read the news with your children to avoid graphic images.
3. Give kids concrete information and only necessary details. Listen to their feelings and opinions and help them develop a realistic sense of what is dangerous in their own environment.
4. Share your feelings, values, and moral principles.
5. Acknowledge your child's fears. Help them understand the likelihood of it happening to them. Discuss the family's emergency preparedness.
6. Ask what they have heard, and start there. Explain the difference between news and sensationalism; put a child's potentially racing imagination in check. Discuss the facts without over-explaining. If they show interest, encourage your child to learn more.
7. Empower your child. They may want to know how to help, and they can be encouraged to do this on an appropriate scale.

# Helpful Resources

## Talking to Kids about the News

PBS Parents: Talking with Kids About News  
[www.pbs.org/parents/talkingwithkids/news](http://www.pbs.org/parents/talkingwithkids/news)

Children Now: Talking with Kids About Tough Issues  
[www.childrenow.org/index.php/learn/twk\\_news](http://www.childrenow.org/index.php/learn/twk_news)

Media Awareness Network: Talking to Kids about the News  
[www.media-awareness.ca/english/resources/tip\\_sheets/news\\_tip.cfm](http://www.media-awareness.ca/english/resources/tip_sheets/news_tip.cfm)



Photo: Paul Jeffrey/ACT Alliance

## Disasters and the Environment

Federal Emergency Management Area:  
The Disaster Zone  
[www.fema.gov/kids/dizarea.htm](http://www.fema.gov/kids/dizarea.htm)

Environmental Protection Agency:  
Environmental Kids Club  
[www.epa.gov/kids](http://www.epa.gov/kids)

## Tips for Talking to Children after a Disaster

The Globe and Mail: The Haiti Talk:  
How to discuss disasters with your kids  
[www.theglobeandmail.com/life/parenting/advice/more-advice/the-haiti-talk-how-to-discuss-disasters-with-your-kids/article1431515](http://www.theglobeandmail.com/life/parenting/advice/more-advice/the-haiti-talk-how-to-discuss-disasters-with-your-kids/article1431515)

Tips for Talking to Children After a Disaster:  
A Guide for Parents and Teachers  
[store.samhsa.gov/shin/content/KEN01-0093/KEN01-0093.pdf](http://store.samhsa.gov/shin/content/KEN01-0093/KEN01-0093.pdf)

## Emergency preparations

Canadian Red Cross "Expect the Unexpected"  
[www.redcross.ca/article.asp?id=33865&tid=001](http://www.redcross.ca/article.asp?id=33865&tid=001)

## Church Responses to Disasters and More

Presbyterian World Service & Development  
[www.presbyterian.ca/pwsd](http://www.presbyterian.ca/pwsd)

Canadian Foodgrains Bank  
[www.foodgrainsbank.ca](http://www.foodgrainsbank.ca)

ACT Alliance  
[www.actalliance.org](http://www.actalliance.org)

Canadian Coalition to End Global Poverty  
[www.ccic.ca](http://www.ccic.ca)



### Presbyterian World Service & Development

The development and relief agency of  
The Presbyterian Church in Canada  
50 Wynford Dr., Toronto ON M3C 1J7  
416-441-1111 or 1-800-619-7301, ext. 291  
[www.presbyterian.ca/pwsd](http://www.presbyterian.ca/pwsd)