Praying Hands Cards

Materials Needed:

- Cardstock (1 sheet for every 2 cards).
- Washable Tempera Paint (Multiple Colors are nice but not necessary).
- Paint tray or aluminum pie pan. (1 for each child)
- Paint Brush (1 for each child)
- Color Printer
- Paper Cutter
- Hole Punch
- Colored Ribbon or String
- Children (K-3) are good ages (considering their hand size).
- Recommended but not necessary: Laminating machine and laminating sheets.

Preparation:

- The are two different Front Side Patters (for color variation). Print as many card stock copies that you will need.
- Turn the printed sheets over and then print the back side onto each sheet. Be CAREFUL to align the paper properly so the top is on the same end.
- Cut 1/2 inch off the side (as indicated on the pattern).
- Cut the sheets in half.
- Lay the cards out onto tables (you might want to place plastic on the tables and have the children wear old oversized t-shirts to protect from paint).
- Read the Bible Verses to the Children and let them know that they are going to place their hands on the cards as a symbol and reminder of how Jesus placed His hands on the little children and (by doing so) they are praying a prayer of blessing for each person who will get a card.
- Let the children place their handprints on each card.
- Then have the children (after washing their hands) gather together in a prayer circle as the leader prays the priestly prayer of blessing from Numbers over the children and for each person that will get a card.

After the paint has dried:

- If you laminate the cards, carefully place them between the laminate sheets so that there is approximately 1/2 inch between them and 1/4 inch around the borders. Once laminated, cut them in half. (This should leave a 1/4 laminated border around the edges of the paper.
- Use the hole punch to punch holes in each card (where indicated). Tie ribbons or colored strings in the holes. You can let the children do this and ask them to pray a blessing as they tie each knot.

Distribution:

- At Northridge, we asked everyone to stand during worship service and as the children passed them out, and each person got one they sat down until everyone got one.
- But, there are many ways that your church and your children’s ministries can use them.
"But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."
~Joshua 24:15

"'My house shall be called a house of prayer.'"
~Matthew 21:13
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Follow Jesus’ example:

“Let the little children come to Me.”
And He took them up in His arms, laid His hands on them, and blessed them.
~Mark 10:14, 16

We have prayed for you:

“The LORD bless you and keep you;
The LORD make His face shine upon you,
And be gracious to you;
The LORD turn His face toward you,
And give you peace.”
~Numbers 6:24-26