



A Resource List for Helping Children Cope with Disasters

During times of disaster, how do we help children who are witnessing disaster to feel secure? How do we let our children know that God is in the midst of those who are suffering as a result of the earthquakes, tsunamis, floods, tornadoes and hurricanes?

The resources below, offered through the General Board of Discipleship, the United Methodist Committee on Relief [UMCOR] and First Steps Spirituality Center in Colorado Springs, Colorado offer ways for adults to talk with children, know the expected signs of response to disaster and provide comfort as the children heal.

*These extraordinary **BOOKS** can provide comfort for children in times of uncertainty:*

River Friendly, River Wild by Jane Kurtz tells the story of a little girl who lives through a flood in her town, and how her family goes on to make new memories. The message of community and cooperation shines through in this book for elementary aged children.

God's Paintbrush by Sandy Sasso encourages children to think about how they can best serve God. Older elementary children will find this book helpful in showing them how to move from fear and confusion, to action.

Runaway Bunny by Margaret Wise Brown is based on Psalm 139, and illustrates to children how God's love is steadfast. Preschoolers will connect with the relationship between child and parent.

The Fall of Freddie the Leaf by Leo Buscaglia, a book for older children, follows the life cycle of a leaf as a way to help children deal with loss.

*These **RESOURCES** can equip adults to assure children, helping them move from fear to action:*

Spiritual Care in Disaster Response

<http://new.gbgm-umc.org/umcor/media/scdr/seekcounschild.pdf>

Pray-ground - A place to pray and count your blessings

<http://www.1ststeps.net/Prayground/tabid/617/Default.aspx>

11 Tips for Responding to Children's Fears and Concerns Following a Disaster

</resource/eleven-tips-for-responding-to-childrens-fears-and-concerns-following-a-disa>

Advice on supporting your children following a disaster

<http://www.1ststeps.net/Blog/tabid/619/EntryID/101/Default.aspx>

Helping Children In Times of Pain and Crisis

http://gbod.org.s3.amazonaws.com/legacy/kintera/entry_135/19/INTIMEPAINCRISIS.PDF

<http://www.gbod.org/resources/a-resource-list-for-helping-children-cope-with-disasters>



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