

Taking action for children



Welcome to our Legacy Month 2026 – a time to celebrate the difference legacy gifts can make to the lives of vulnerable children across the UK. We'd love you to use these prayer reflections on your own or in a group, to think about how important it is to advocate for the rights of vulnerable children and young people. And how, through your faith and the action you take, you can make a difference.

Week three

Advocacy begins with courage and presence

Read: 2 Kings 8:1-6

Reflect

The story of the Shunammite woman in 2 Kings 8:1-6 is such a powerful, triumphant story of justice and restoration.

The story begins earlier in 2 Kings 4. The Shunammite woman, once known for her faith and hospitality, returns home after years away to find her land taken. As someone with little social power, she represents the vulnerable – those whose rights can easily be ignored. Yet she refuses to remain silent. She goes to the King to appeal for justice.

Remarkably, her story is already being told. Gehazi is recounting to the King how God worked in her life, restoring her son. When she arrives and speaks, the King listens and acts. He makes sure that not only that her land is returned, but also that she gets all the income it produced during her absence. This is not simply kindness – it's true justice.

This passage shows that advocacy begins with courage and presence. The woman shows up, refusing to be invisible. But it also highlights the importance of others who speak on behalf of vulnerable people. Gehazi uses his voice to amplify hers, making sure it reaches a place of power. Advocacy today often looks the same – listening well, sharing real stories, and using our influence so that others are heard.

This is something we see so clearly in the work of Action for Children. By gathering real stories from children, young people and families, we help make sure lived experience is not overlooked but brought into conversations with those in power. These stories are used to make a compelling case for change – feeding into government decisions and shaping policies that can transform lives.

God's justice is restorative. The Shunammite woman receives more than what was lost, reminding us that advocacy is not just about meeting immediate needs but helping people to flourish with dignity and hope.

Today, Action for Children invites you to use your voice to amplify that of others, especially those who can often be overlooked. Together, we can speak up against injustice, help others navigate complex systems, and truly listen to people's experiences. We can go beyond short-term help and find lasting change.

Ultimately, to advocate is to believe every story matters and to help every one get heard – reflecting the heart of a God who restores.

Karis Kolawole
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Pray

Restoring God,
You see every story and hear every voice.
Give us courage to speak up for what is right, and
compassion to stand alongside those seeking justice.

Help us to listen deeply,
to lift up the stories that must be heard,
and to work for restoration that brings hope and dignity.

May we reflect Your heart for justice
in all we say and do.
Amen.