

GIVE 1 HELP ONE

\$1 a Week = A Forever Family

Small Group Bible Study
Participant's Packet/ Children's Packet

A campaign of Connected Hearts Ministry
connectedheartsministry.org





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QUESTIONS TO THINK ABOUT BEFORE THE STUDY BEGINS

What do you think about when you hear adoption? Orphan Care?

Do you think God has a concern for the orphan?

Do you think orphan care has a scriptural basis?

If so, does God call us as Christians to care for the orphan?

Should Christians be on the front lines of the orphan care crisis?

How many orphans do you think there are worldwide? How many children do you think are in the US foster care system?

Is there any relationship between adoption and the gospel?



CHILDREN'S BIBLE STUDY

The following children's Bible Study correlates with the adult Bible Study. Depending on your child's age, we recommend incorporating parts from the adult Bible Study into the children's Bible study.



After each section of the adult bible study you will see this symbol. This indicates that it is the children's Bible study.

Each part of the children's Bible study is broken down into the following categories:

Main Idea: This will help you easily clarify to your children what the section is about.

Scripture Memory Verse: In each part we will give you a scripture that corresponds to the lesson. Read this scripture with your children, explain its meaning, and memorize it together. ***The following link is a fun activity you can do with each verse to help your child memorize the scripture. Special thanks to 123 Homeschool 4 Me for the use of the children's activities in this study.***

123 Homeschool 4 Me Scripture Memory Puzzle:

https://www.123homeschool4me.com/scripture-memory-puzzles_35/

Action Step and Prayer: In this Bible study your child will learn that God wants us to pray fervently, and also to put our faith into action. This step gives your child specific prayer requests and easy action steps to help make a difference for orphans.

Coloring Pages: For younger children, we have included links to coloring pages and coloring activities that correlate with the study.

Topic: God's Heart for the Orphan:

Scripture makes it clear that every person is created in the image of God, and hence an object of His mercy. As you search through scripture you will also see that God has a deep concern for the fatherless, the widow and the sojourner. Just in the Old Testament alone, "orphans" and "the fatherless" are mentioned forty one times. As you read the following scriptures, concentrate on what they reveal about God's heart.



*"A Father to the fatherless a defender of widows is God in his holy dwelling.
God sets the lonely in families." (Psalm 68:5-6 NIV)*

*"He executes justice for the fatherless and the widow, and loves the sojourner, giving him food
and clothing." (Deuteronomy 10:18)*

*"The Lord watches over the sojourners; he upholds the widow and the fatherless,
but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin." (Psalms 146:9)*

*"You shall not mistreat any widow or fatherless child. If you do mistreat them, and they cry out to
me, I will surely hear their cry." (Exodus 22:22-23)*

"In you the orphan finds mercy." (Hosea 14:3)

Additional scriptures to study: Deuteronomy 14:28-29, Deuteronomy 27:19, Zechariah 7:10, Psalms 10:14, Psalm 10:14, Psalm 10:16-18

These scriptures make it clear that God cares deeply for orphans, and seeks justice for them. Orphans may be overlooked by the world, but God sees them, cares for them and seeks to settle them into a family.



**"When it comes to caring for
the people on God's heart,
indifference is a sin."**

TOM DAVIS, FIELDS OF THE FATHERLESS



CHILDREN'S BREAKDOWN: PART 1

Main Idea: God has a deep love for orphans. He loves them so much that he mentions them 41 times in the Old Testament alone.

Scripture Memory Verse: "He executes justice for the fatherless and the widow, and loves the sojourner, giving him food and clothing." (Deuteronomy 10:18)

Action step and prayer: Connected Hearts has helped orphans in over 16 different countries. The following countries are just a few: (China, India, South Africa, and Columbia). Pick at least one of these countries, and locate it on the map at the link below. Pray for orphans in that country to come to know the love of Christ, and the love of a family.

World Map: <http://ontheworldmap.com>

Coloring Page: The following coloring pages will help teach your children more about other cultures and places around the world: www.123homeschool4me.com/free-18-countries-of-world-book_30/

PART 2

Questions to Discuss:

After reading scriptures that reveal God's heart for the orphan, has this changed your own view about caring for orphans?

Have someone from the group read Ephesians 5:1. What does this tell you, if anything, about how we should respond to caring for orphans? If we are to imitate God in every way, and if God has a deep concern for the orphan, as his followers, should we as well?



God commands us as His followers to share His concern for the orphan:

Bob Pierce, the founder of World Vision, wrote these words, "**Let my heart be broken with the things that break the heart of God.**" The scriptures in part 1 showed us that God has a deep concern for the fatherless. His heart is broken when the fatherless are taken advantage of, uncared for, and forgotten. If we are to be imitators of God, and seek what his heart seeks, then we too should seek justice for the orphan.

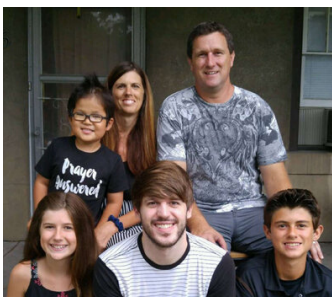
We too should seek to alleviate the orphan's suffering, and to care for them. As you will see in the scriptures below, that is exactly what God commands us to do.

"Learn to do good; seek justice, correct oppression; bring justice to the fatherless, plead the widow's cause." (Isaiah 1:17)

"Give justice to the weak and the fatherless; maintain the rights of the afflicted and the destitute. Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked." (Psalms 82:3-4)

"Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world." (James 1:27)

Additional scripture: Deuteronomy 24:17-22



"When we adopt-and when we encourage a culture of adoption in our churches and communities-we're picturing something that's true about our God. We like Jesus, see what our Father is doing and do likewise (John 5:19). And what our Father is doing, it turns out, is fighting for orphans, making them sons and daughters."

RUSSEL MOORE, ADOPTED FOR LIFE



CHILDREN'S BREAKDOWN: PART 2

Main Idea: God wants us to love and care for orphans too.

Scripture Verse: "Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world." (James 1:27)

Action step and prayer: Choose at least one adopting family from the link below. Pray for them, and for the child they are adopting. You can also print out their photo as a reminder to pray for them daily.

Family Listing Page: www.connectedheartsmistry.org/family-listings

Activity: Draw a picture of your family, and write why you are thankful for your family.

Question to Discuss:

We now understand that God has a heart for orphans, and that He commands us to care for them as well. We will next look at the worldwide orphan crisis.

However, before we do, discuss with the group the importance of family.

Imagine how different your life would have been if you grew up without a family. Think about how your family provided you with things such as proper nutrition, medical care, education, security and love. How would you have received these things if you did not have a family? How would your life be different today? Answering these questions help you realize the desperate need orphans are in.



The Crisis

There are more than 140 million orphans worldwide that meet the definition of an orphan. (Lost at least one parent.)



There are 15 million double orphans worldwide. (Lost both parents)

That is enough orphans to fill over 150 Super Bowl Stadiums.

95% of orphans are over the age of 5.

In the United States there are roughly 400,000 children in the foster care system. Approximately 100,000 of these children are currently available for adoption.

Orphans are the most vulnerable people on our planet.



"This vulnerability touches every aspect of an orphan's life. Both single and double orphans are much more likely than other children to be malnourished and stunted in growth. Even when living with a surviving parent or relative, orphans are less likely to attend school and more likely to fall behind and drop out. Orphans often lack funds for basic medical treatment, food, and school supplies."

Jedd Medefind, Becoming Home

"Research about orphans shows that "more often than not, the neediest children are sick, disabled, traumatized, or older than five." These children are susceptible to poverty, HIV/AIDS, human trafficking, being stuck in an orphanage for their entire childhood, and many other issues..."

Johnny Carr, Orphan Justice



CHILDREN'S BREAKDOWN: PART 3

Main Idea: There are more than 140 million orphans worldwide. God wants every one of them to be cared for, and to know His love.

Scripture Verse: "Learn to do good; seek justice, correct oppression; bring justice to the fatherless, plead the widow's cause." (Isaiah 1:17)

Action step and prayer: The link below shows four children. Three of them are still waiting to find their forever family. (Eliza, Ricky and Shirely.) Choose at least one of these children, and pray that God will connect them with a forever family soon. You can also print out their photo as a reminder to pray for them daily.

Advocacy link: www.connectedheartsmintistry.org/advocacy

Coloring Activity: Use the following coloring sheets, and have your family look up the information on the sheets together, to learn more about children around the world.

123 Homeschool 4 Me- Children Around the World:

www.123homeschool4me.com/children-around-the-world/

Question to Discuss:

After you hear that there are enough orphans to fill 150 Super Bowl stadiums, how does that make you feel? Sad? Overwhelmed? Ready to take action?

With such a large number of orphans in the world, do you feel like you can make a difference?

What could help motivate and sustain us to tackle such a large and difficult crisis?



We as Christians are adopted by God.

It is vital for us, as Christians, to understand that each and everyone of us has been adopted by God once we placed our faith in Christ. In fact, the essence of the gospel is the good news that you are adopted.

*"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love he predestined us for **adoption** to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will..." (Ephesians 1: 3-5)*

*"For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of **adoption** as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!" (Romans 8:15)*

*"But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive **adoption** as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God." (Galatians 4:4-7)*

Our true motivation for orphan care:



Often times when we hear that there are 15 million orphans worldwide we can become overwhelmed, thinking it is too big of a crisis for any one person or group to make a difference. However, realizing that God cared enough to look out into all humanity and adopt you into his family radically changes things. In Matthew 18: 12-14 we are reminded that God leaves the 99 for the one. In the same way we can make a difference one orphan at a time. Our true motivation for orphan care comes from the fact that God first loved us. This is what will sustain us for the long haul. We love and care for orphans because God has loved and cared for us. **Adoption is the visible gospel.**

Video: Francis Chan on our motivation for orphan care

Optional Worship Music Video: So Will I (100 Billion X) - Hillsong Worship

PART 4 CONTINUED



"As we love our God, we love our neighbor; as we love our neighbor; we love our God. We believe Jesus in heavenly things-our adoption in Christ; so we follow him in earthly things-our adoption of children. Without the theological aspect, the emphasis on adoption too easily is seen as mere charity. Without the missional aspect, the doctrine of adoption too easily is seen as mere metaphor."

RUSSEL MOORE, ADOPTED FOR LIFE



CHILDREN'S BREAKDOWN: PART 4

Main Idea: We as Christians, are adopted by God. Adoption is a visible picture of what God has done for each of us.

Scripture Verse: "For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!" (Romans 8:15)

Action Step and Prayer: Many orphans around the world have never heard of God's love for them. Through adoption, children have the opportunity to know the love of Christ. **Look on the Impact Story section (page 19)** to read the story about Lybbi, a little girl whose life was changed through adoption. Today, ask God to help orphans around the world come to know him.

Coloring Activity: Lybbi is from China. Connected Hearts has helped many children from China have a family. You can learn more about China in the following activity book.

123 Homeschool 4 Me- Learn More About China Book:

https://www.123homeschool4me.com/facts-about-china-book-for-kids_53/

PART 5: PUTTING OUR FAITH INTO ACTION!

James 1:22 says,

**"But be doers of the word, and not hearers only,
deceiving yourselves."**

You have now studied scriptures about God's heart for orphans, how we as Christians are commanded to care for orphans, and how we are adopted by God. In addition, you have been made aware of the needs of orphans around the world.

Just a few verses after James tells us to be doers of the word, he tells us that part of true religion (true Christianity) is to care for orphans in their distress. (James 1:27) Let us as Christians, as adopted sons and daughters, be doers of the word. Let us bring hope to one orphan at a time. To visit them in their distress, to ease their suffering and to show them that they are not forgotten. Let us be imitators of our God, who first loved us, by loving, caring for and seeking justice for the orphan. Together we can make a dramatic impact!

**"I am only one, but I am one. I cannot do everything,
but I can do something. And that which I can do ,
by the grace of God, I will do. "**

D.L. MOODY

You may be asking, now that you have all this new information and want to make a difference, what am I suppose to do? What is a way I can help orphans? Our goal through this study was to not only provide you with the knowledge, but also to give you a simple and easy way to start making a difference right away.

We have created a program called **Give 1 Help One** that allows anyone to help. (See details on next page.) For at least \$1 a week/ \$4 a month you can help an orphan be united into a forever family. **This is about the same cost as a drink at Starbucks.**



GIVE 1 HELP ONE CAMPAIGN: \$1 A WEEK = A FOREVER FAMILY

Over the last 5 years Connected Hearts Ministry, **with the help of people just like you**, has given away over a half a million dollars to help over 150 Children from **16** different countries be united with a forever family, and receive the love and medical care they deserve. (You can learn more about CHM on page 18.)

NOT EVERY CHRISTIAN IS CALLED TO ADOPT AN ORPHAN, BUT EVERY CHRISTIAN IS CALLED TO HELP AN ORPHAN.

"Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world."

James 1:27

THE **GIVE 1 HELP ONE CAMPAIGN**
IS SIMPLE AND ALLOWS EVERYONE TO HELP:



THERE ARE MILLIONS OF ORPHANS AROUND THE WORLD WHO NEED AND WANT A FAMILY.

THERE ARE ALSO MANY LOVING FAMILIES WHO WANT TO ADOPT, BUT CANNOT AFFORD IT.



GIVE 1 HELP ONE

\$1 a Week = A Forever Family

YOU CAN HELP BRIDGE THIS GAP BY JOINING THE **GIVE 1 HELP ONE CAMPAIGN**.

- For at least **\$1 a week**, you can provide funds to help a family adopt and give a child a loving home.

THROUGH YOUR SUPPORT YOU WILL TURN MORE ORPHANS INTO TREASURED AND LOVED SONS AND DAUGHTER



SIGN UP TODAY!

GIVE.CONNECTEDHEARTSMINISTRY.ORG/GIVE1HELPONE



GIVE 1 HELP ONE CHALLENGE!

FOR THE COST OF ONE CUP OF COFFEE



=



YOU CAN GIVE A CHILD A FAMILY!



We are challenging you to skip going out for coffee one day a month, and instead drink coffee from home. We will even provide you with a free Connected Hearts Ministry reusable travel coffee mug! Each time you use the cup you will be reminded that the money saved for just one cup of coffee helps give an orphan a family.

It Is That Easy to Make a Difference!

SIGN UP TODAY!

GIVE.CONNECTEDHEARTSMINISTRY.ORG/GIVE1HELPONE

Through your support you will help children just like Lybbi and Austin:



To see how your partnership helps change the lives of children, please read the impact stories on page 17.

Benefits of taking the Give 1 Help One Challenge!



You will receive inspiring stories about how your donation is making an impact.



Free Connected Hearts Ministry travel coffee mug!



Invites and updates on event happenings throughout the year.



The joy of knowing that your participation in the Give 1 Help One campaign is helping orphans be connected to loving forever families.



CHILDREN'S BREAKDOWN: PART 5

Main Idea: God wants us to put our faith into action.

Scripture Verse: "But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves."- James 1:22

Action step and prayer: Ask God to show you how he wants you to put your faith into action and help care for orphans. (Parents along with their children can join the Give 1 Help One campaign, or parents can help their children create their own fundraiser based on the action step below.)

Use your talents to help orphans. In 2004, when Austin Gutwien was just nine years old, he watched a video that showed children who had become orphans because they lost their parents to AIDS. After watching the video Austin felt God calling him to do something to help them. Even though he wasn't great at basketball, he decided to shoot free throws to raise money for orphans. In 2004, on World AIDS Day, he shot 2,057 free throws to represent the 2,057 kids who would be orphaned while he was in school. Friends and family sponsored Austin, and he raised almost \$3,000 that day to provide hope for 8 orphans.

Since then Austin's effort has turned into the largest free throw marathon in the world with over 40,000 people in over 25 countries participating. By doing something as simple as shooting free throws, Austin's company, Hoops for Hope, has raised over 4 million dollars and has led to the construction of the only high school in a rural region of Southern Zambia, 4 dormitories, two medical clinics, feed programs, water projects and much more.

Project: Just like Austin, you too can make a difference for orphans. Work with your family to create a plan to raise money for orphans using your gifts and talents. You can visit the link below to start your own online fundraiser once you have chosen your activity. You can then share your fundraiser with your friends and family. The money you raise will go towards helping orphans be adopted into loving families.

Create your own fundraiser: give.connectedheartsmistry.org/give1helpone



CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION

Certificate of Completion: When you have completed the Bible Study, please email us at info@connectedheartsmistry.org, and provide the names of all of the children in your family who have completed it. We will email a certificate of completion for each child.

Example Certificate:



Here are two stories that can quickly be shared to show how your partnership makes an impact in the life of a child. Downloadable pictures and full stories can be found on our website at: connectedheartsmistry.org/give1helpone.

Austin Mulvany:



95% of orphans worldwide are over the age of 5. Many of these children will never have a forever family simply because of their age. Austin could have been one of these children. Austin was found abandoned just three days before Christmas. Instead of celebrating Christmas with his family, Austin spent that Christmas, and the next three years in an orphanage. Once the Mulvanys found out about Austin, they applied for funding through Connected Hearts. Connected Hearts was able to give the Mulvanys the funds they needed to complete their adoption. Today Austin is thriving with his family, and will never spend another Christmas without a family.

Lybbi Cotter



Lybbi was born with a severe heart defect. Connected Hearts helped the Cotters raise funds to complete Lybbi's adoption. Once home, Lybbi needed several surgeries to save her life. The Cotters applied for funding through Connected Hearts' Medical Sponsorship program. Through this program, Connected Hearts was able to help pay for several of Lybbi's surgeries. Today, Lybbi is active in school, and is thriving with her forever family. She loves playing with her brothers and sister, and has even been featured online in People Magazine! Lybbi's life is a great example of how adoption can give children the opportunity to not only survive, but to also be all that God created them to be.

CONNECTED HEARTS MINISTRY INFORMATION

"Through Connected Hearts Ministry, God provided exactly what was needed to close our remaining funding gap before travel. Eden & Lydia have been home for two years, and we cannot imagine life without them!"

Kalmbalcher Family



Over the last 5 years Connected Hearts Ministry has given away **over \$700,000** to help over 150 Children from **16** different countries be united with a forever family, and receive the love and care they deserve.

Our mission is to advocate, raise funds and care for orphans who are most often overlooked for adoption. This includes orphans with special needs, older children and sibling groups.

We have four main programs that help us accomplish this mission:



Advocacy: We advocate for children who are available for adoption both locally and globally to help them find a forever family they can call their own.

Adoption Funding: We provide funding to families who are adopting children with special needs, older children, and children in sibling groups. We help families complete their adoption by providing matching grants, and helping them fundraise.



Medical Funding: We provide medical funding to families who have adopted medically fragile children to help them care for their child. Through this program we have helped pay for life saving procedures such as heart and brain surgeries, cancer treatment, and many other medical procedures that children have needed once they are brought home.

Foster Care Program: Many children who enter foster care are forced to leave their home abruptly. They typically do not get to take any of their belongings with them. We provide duffle bags filled with essential and comfort items (hygiene products, blanket, pillows, stuffed animal, ect.) to help children as they transition into foster care.

