

The Church Responding to the NEEDS of Orphans



Objectives: (allow 1 hour for study)

- ♥ Raise Awareness of Children in need
- ♥ Show how the Bible responds to those in need
- ♥ Raise awareness about how your church is helping innocent children and how they can get involved.

Supplies: Video: Seeing the Need – Making a Difference

Copies of the Student Study (make sure the teacher has a copy to reference to)

BECOME AWARE: (allow 20 minutes)

1. Watch DVD: You Can Bring Hope to an Orphan
2. Show the Child picture included on your CD. Here's the rest of the story. . .
 - a. Have someone in the class read the story on the Student Study.
3. Teacher Shares:
 - ♥ A little bit about India:
 - ♥ Located in Asia, India is slightly more than one-third the size of the US
 - ♥ Population of 1,095,351,995, 25% being below poverty line
 - ♥ English enjoys associate status but is the most important language for national, political, and commercial communication; Hindi is the national language and primary tongue of 30% of the people; there are 14 other official languages
 - ♥ The country is 80.5% Hindu.
 - ♥ Issue at hand: India's socioeconomic status, traditional social norms, cultural myths on sex and sexuality, large-scale migration and a huge population of marginalized people make it extremely vulnerable to the AIDS epidemic.
4. Read the FACTS on Student Study
5. Read Matthew 25:31-46. Ask the following questions:
 - ♥ What were the six "needs" mentioned in this passage.
hunger, thirst, stranger, clothes, sick, imprisoned
 - ♥ Are you able to see the world as God sees it? If you did would it change you?

CONSIDER YOUR RESPONSIBILITY: (allow 25 minutes)

Activity Objective: Make participants aware of the situations of orphans and the Biblical responsibility they have to respond to this crisis.

Activity Instructions: The instructor may choose to split the class into three groups, assigning on situation to each group, or discuss each situation as a class. (If you have split into groups have them discuss all answers within the group and share at the end.) These are real situations orphans face every day.

Ask the group to answer these two questions:

- ♥ What choices do you have in this circumstance, give at least three?
- ♥ What outside assistance would help in this circumstance, or make this circumstance different?

Read the Scripture reference and summaries. Have the class answer the question that follows.

If the class has split into groups have each group share at this time.

Some Possible Answers to the questions:

- ♥ In America you can apply to the government for grants and subsidized help so you can keep the children. Another choice is to foster the children until a family can be found to adopt them. This way they are not being shuffled around. If at all possible, you as their family member should seek to make sure they are properly cared for, it's scriptural.
- ♥ You can apply for hospital or government grants for the surgery and pray that God will provide means or take away the ailment. You can contact a humanitarian aid organization to either fund the health care, or to find a loving family for the child so they are given the medical attention they need.

These examples were to show you the tragic circumstances in which children become orphans as well as the options available to keep them from becoming orphans.

TAKE ACTION: (allow 15 minutes)

Scripture Summary:

Today we read from Matthew 25, 1 Timothy 5:8, James 1: 27, and Exodus 2:1-10. All these scriptures can be summed up into one phrase:

"Love your neighbor as yourself"

This command was given by Jesus in all four Gospels:

Verbatim in Matthew 19:19, Mark 22:39, Luke 10:27

"Love each other" in John 15:17.

Go forth in Prayer:

- ♥ Encourage the class to pray for the orphans around the world.
- ♥ Inform the class on how your church is involved in the orphan crisis and how they can be involved
- ♥ Close the class in prayer making sure you praise God for the blessings you have and pray for the orphans around the world.