

COLLEGE STUDENTS CAN DO ORPHAN CARE

TOP 10 WAYS TO START

1. BABYSITTER TO THE RESCUE

Every parent can appreciate free and quality childcare. It's like winning the lottery! But for foster parents, the appreciation goes even deeper. A simple night out can be a lifeline in the midst of a stormy week! You can be a huge blessing and meet a profound need by offering to become a certified babysitter through the family's child placing agency.

2. CRACK THE BOOKS

Children from hard places often have unique and magnified challenges. While they are ordinary kids, they have experienced extraordinary trauma, which affects their brain, biology, body, beliefs, and behavior. In order to be the best kids ministry volunteer, mentor, or certified babysitter, educate yourself on children from hard places. There are plenty of amazing tools out there! To get started, visit resources.backyardorphans.org!

3. SPONSOR A CHILD

\$30 a month is a big deal in this season of your life, but it can be life-altering for a child overseas. Have you considered giving sacrificially to sponsor an orphan in a third-world country so they can have their basic needs met such as food, clothing, shelter, and education? Organizations like World Vision or Compassion International are great ones to start with.

4. ON YOUR KNEES

Orphan care is spiritual warfare. Foster families aren't fighting the government, biological parents, or children affected by trauma--they're fighting the Enemy! And they shouldn't be fighting alone. Create time each week to cover these families in prayer. Not only will your prayers provide support, but they will begin to align your heart with that of the Father's...one that beats for the orphan.

5. SACRIFICE A STARBUCKS

On your next Starbucks run, instead of buying a \$5 coffee, buy a \$5 gift card! Write a simple note of appreciation and slip it in an envelope with the gift card. Use it to bless a foster or adoptive parent, or drive by your local child welfare office and make the day of a caseworker!

6. WANT MORE? BECOME A MENTOR!

Who was your greatest role model as a child? We all had those we idolized or looked up to, whether they were older siblings, coaches, youth leaders, or even parents. Kids from hard places often miss out on these healthy relationships. Contact your local child welfare office and ask about mentorship opportunities. Consistent connection can make the difference of a lifetime.

7. SUPERBOWL ORPHAN SUNDAY

In the orphan care world, Orphan Sunday is like the Superbowl! Does your church participate? If so, ask them how you can get involved! If not, introduce your pastor to it. For resources and more information, visit orphansunday.org!

8. GO "CAMPING"!

Royal Family Kids Camp (RFKC) isn't the kind of camping you've ever experienced, but we promise it's a camp experience you won't want to miss! RFKC is specifically designed to create life-changing moments for innocent kids who have been victims of abuse, neglect, and abandonment. Find a camp near you at rfk.org.

9. SHOPPING SPREE

Let's be honest, who doesn't love some retail therapy?! Invite everyone on your hall or in your friend group to contribute \$10. Use the money to go on a shopping spree for a foster family. Talk to your church orphan care director or your local child welfare office to identify a family and find out their greatest needs.

10. 140 MILLION ORPHANS

While there are hurting children in our own backyard, there are 140 million orphans worldwide! The need is great. Consider going on a missions trip with your church or a trusted organization to serve at an orphanage or a children's home overseas.

