

# YOUR KIDS CAN DO ORPHAN CARE

## TOP 10 WAYS TO SHOW THEM HOW



### 1. A SIMPLE SHOEBOX

Our children love Christmas morning because of the surprises under the tree! What if they knew that some kids never receive such gifts? Through Operation Christmas Child, we can teach our children about the gravity of global need and the joy that comes through compassionate giving! They will get the hands-on experience of packing a simple shoebox and shipping gifts across the globe!

### 2. OH CHRISTMAS TREE

Angel tree is a great way to engage the whole family in orphan care. Talk to your child welfare office about collecting Christmas gifts for the kids in foster care in your community. Then, on a Christmas tree, hang “angels” that contain a child’s age, gender, and several gift wishes. Your families, and especially the kids, will love to pick out an angel and bring the gifts back the church beautifully wrapped.

### 3. NEW-SCHOOL PEN PAL

Did you ever have a pen pal? Kids these days hardly know what pen and paper are! And snail mail? What’s that? But through many of the child sponsorship organizations, our children are able to write letters back-and-forth to children around the world. Not only that, but our kids can bring offerings to help pay for the monthly sponsorship. Check out organizations like Compassion International and Save the Children to get started.

### 4. OWN YOUR ROW

Let’s train our kids to notice the lonely. Start a team of row leaders in your children’s ministry. Assign kids to a specific row and teach them to own it. Their job will be to notice if someone is new, sitting alone, or looks afraid. Encourage the row leaders to pull them in, sit with them, and practice being a friend to those who may desperately need one.

### 5. PRAYER WARRIORS

Like baseball cards with a twist, create prayer cards for children in your community who are ready and waiting for adoption. You will need to work with your child welfare office to gain the permission and information needed for this project. With a green light from child welfare, place a picture on the front and a few safe details on the back (i.e. age, hobbies, favorites). Encourage your kids to pray for their peers daily! This will help to instill in them compassion and a heart of prayer!

### 6. ORPHAN SUNDAY

Orphan Sunday can be as simple or elaborate as you desire! The idea is to host a service in your children’s ministry that opens eyes and spurs hearts to the needs around the globe. Find ways to incorporate sights, sounds, smells, textures, and tastes that are unfamiliar to your kids. Talk about the problem of the orphan crisis and how they can be a part of the solution.

### 7. SIB-CARE

Foster and adoptive parents go through thorough and in-depth training before welcoming a new child into the home. Unfortunately, there are not many trainings developed to prepare siblings in the home for their new brothers and sisters. The idea of Sib-Care is to train a team of volunteers to disciple kids as they navigate ministry to hurting children in their own homes.

### 8. FEED A KID

1 in 5 kids in America come from food-insecure homes. Many of these end up in the foster care system. By providing food for at-risk kids, your children’s ministry can play a part in keeping families together! Even a simple canned food drive can make a profound impact.

### 9. PREACH IT!

Keep orphan care in front of your kids! Do a sermon series on Biblical orphans like Mephibosheth, Moses, and Esther! Teach them the fundamental orphan care scriptures like James 1:27, Romans 8:15, and Psalm 68:5-6! And hit the important topics they’ll need for interacting with kids from hard places like love, acceptance, and compassion.

### 10. BACK TO SCHOOL

The start of a new school year can be overwhelming for large foster families or biological families without support. Talk with your child welfare office about doing a backpack drive for kids in foster care in your community. Send your kids home with backpacks to fill with school supplies. Not only will it make them aware of the needs in their own backyard, they’ll have a blast shopping!

