

Pastor's Talking Points

Hope for needy children and families

Through Love Loaf, you can take your church on a powerful journey of experiencing God's love for the poor.

- Challenge your congregation with Jesus' compassion for the poor and his command to love our neighbors.
- Inspire your members to learn more about the needs of children around the world.
- Make a difference in the lives of needy children and families!

Each week:

- Share the points listed below with your congregation. Use the weekly bulletin inserts for your members to follow along.
- Encourage your church on the difference they are making. A donation of just \$1 per day during this four-week program—only \$28—can provide a hungry child with life-saving food and assistance for a month.
- Remind your congregation that their gifts can multiply up to 15 times in impact thanks to U.S. government grants!

Week 1: Love Loaf Begins!

Theme: Needy children are struggling to survive; how can we help them?

Practical details for your congregation:

- Our church is joining World Vision's Love Loaf program to make a difference in the lives of 799 million children and adults worldwide who go to bed hungry each night.
- Read about Love Loaf in today's bulletin insert. After the service, pick up one Love Loaf and Family Devotional for your household at _____ and take them home. In the weeks ahead, fill your Love Loaf with donations and use the Family Devotional each day to learn more about God's heart for the poor. Bring the Love Loaf back to church on _____, and we'll send our offerings to World Vision to help needy children and families around the world.

Info about the vulnerability of needy children:

- 29,000 children die every day from hunger and other preventable causes.
- Malnutrition is a factor in half of all childhood deaths.
- In developing countries, 150 million children are malnourished.

Challenge verse for the week:

Let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth. —1 John 3:18 (NIV)

Week 2: Love Loaf Continues!

Theme: Hunger traps children in a cycle of poverty.

Practical details for your congregation:

- Read about Love Loaf in today's bulletin insert. If you didn't pick up a Love Loaf and a Family Devotional last week, pick them up today at _____ and take them home. In the weeks ahead, fill your Love Loaf with donations and read the Family Devotional each day. Bring the Love Loaf back to church on _____, and we'll send our offerings to World Vision to help needy children and families around the world.

Info about the obstacles needy children face:

- Poor children must often drop out of school to work or beg for food; without an education, they have little hope of breaking free from poverty.
- 115 million school-age children are not in school, most due to extreme poverty.
- Approximately 250 million children must work up to 15 hours a day to help their families survive.

Challenge verse for the week:

Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to him, "Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it? —James 2:15-16

Week 3: Halfway Through Love Loaf; Are You Meeting Your Goal?

Theme: War and disasters create food crises for struggling families.

Practical details for your congregation:

- Read about Love Loaf in today's bulletin insert. If you haven't picked up a Love Loaf or a Family Devotional yet, pick them up today at _____ and take them home. In the weeks ahead, fill your Love Loaf with donations and read the Family Devotional each day. Bring the Love Loaf back to church on _____, and we'll send our offerings to World Vision to help needy children and families around the world.

Info about children suffering from wars and disasters:

- Sudden natural disasters and violent conflicts alike can wipe out a community's food sources and lead to a hunger crisis.
- 15 million children worldwide have been orphaned by the HIV/AIDS pandemic. Orphans have little chance of providing food for themselves or their brothers and sisters.
- 80 percent of refugees around the world are children and women—forced to flee their homes with no means of survival.

Challenge verse for the week:

The King will reply, "I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me."
—Matthew 25:40

Week 4: The Final Week of Love Loaf!

Theme: God has a special heart for the poor in desperate situations.

Practical details for your congregation:

- Bring in your Love Loaf next week for Harvest Sunday!

Info about children and families in desperate situations:

- Half of the world's 6 billion people are forced to live on less than \$2 a day.
- 650 million children struggle to survive on less than \$1 a day.
- Even in the United States, more than 34 million children and adults face the struggles of poverty every day.

Challenge verse for the week:

Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty." —John 6:35

Week 5: Love Loaf Harvest Sunday!

Theme: Thank you for making a difference!

Practical details for your congregation:

- Today we celebrate Harvest Sunday. We're collecting all Love Loaves and asking God's blessing upon these offerings. Bring your Love Loaf to _____ and join us to celebrate this event in _____ at _____.

Quotes from children and families who have been helped by World Vision:

- "My outlook on life has changed. I realized there were people out there ready to help a poor child like me. Since then, I have never felt alone. Isn't it amazing that people from the other side of the globe care enough to help?"
—Sheryl, age 15, the Philippines
- "World Vision offered me hope . . . I never thought I would meet such kind people. God listened to all our prayers."
—Mandra, Romania

Challenge verse for the week:

Blessed is he who is kind to the needy. —Proverbs 14:21b

After the funds are counted, report to your congregation:

In the past four weeks, our congregation raised \$ _____ to help needy children and their communities! By participating in Love Loaf, we've joined more than 200,000 families who are helping needy children this year. Thank you for your faithfulness!