



a generation to Save

World Vision®

Bible Study Leader's Guide

Lesson Objective (allow 55 minutes total time for study)

At the end of this lesson, participants will be able to:

- Describe the impact of the AIDS crisis on millions of innocent children
- Explain how Bible verses offer direction for how to respond to this critical need
- Talk about how to support your church's decision to care for these often-forgotten children

The Need (allow 20 minutes, including video)

These items are included in your church's Hope Initiative "A Generation to Save" Tool Kit and will be useful in your class:

- Video: first segment, "The Hidden Faces of AIDS"
- HIV and AIDS Statistics

1. **View the first video segment** (9 minutes) or read the story at the top of the Participants' Study.

2. **Understanding the AIDS crisis**

Leader Shares: AIDS is killing Africa—and now is migrating to new continents on its deadly tour of the world's poorest countries. Why is AIDS mushrooming in poor countries? Many reasons, including:

- People who are poor are often undereducated and don't understand the disease—or how to prevent it.
- People who are poor often lack access to adequate health care and medicines to treat the disease.
- In many countries with high HIV infection rates, governments often fail to acknowledge the pandemic or support lasting solutions, such as prevention education or increased health care.

AIDS is considered the greatest humanitarian crisis of our time. As parents die, 15 million children have been left with few resources or skills to care for themselves. As these children struggle to survive, they often are forced to drop out of school to find food, collect water, care for siblings, and do whatever they can to earn a meager income to buy basic supplies such as soap and clothing. Because the orphans' neighbors are poor and sometimes sick, often there is no one to feed these desperate children, clothe them, care for them when they are sick themselves, and comfort them when they are lonely.

3. **Focus on Scripture:** Read Matthew 25:31-40 and discuss the following questions:

- In the context of what we're learning about the AIDS crisis and its impact on children, what do these verses mean to you? Who are "the least of these" (v. 40)?
- How important is it to God—and why—that we care for "the least of these" (v. 40)?

The Challenge: What Would You Do? (allow 15 minutes)

Activity Objective: Participants will see that the poor often lack the skills and/or resources to solve their problems—but often a solution can be easily reached when others partner with them.

Activity Instructions: Divide your class into three groups. Assign each group one of the scenarios listed in the Participants' Study (at right, please detach), which are real situations orphans face regularly. Ask them to read the questions at the end of the scenario and decide what they would do if they had no outside help. After the groups have reached their decisions, have each group read their scenario to the class and share their solutions. Then read aloud (below) what World Vision did to solve that challenge.

Scenario 1: The hungry children of Chanjoka, Malawi

Community members joined together to volunteer in community-based childcare centers, funded by World Vision. The children had safe places to gather, and World Vision provided food supplies so they would have enough to eat. These short-term solutions will be reinforced with vocational training for older children, so they can learn a trade to earn an income. While the orphans didn't have the skills or resources to improve their situation on their own, generous people from the United States provided the funds to assist the children of Chanjoka—for today and into the future.

Scenario 2: Frank from Tanzania

"World Vision did many good things for us," Frank said. "[They] prayed with us, counseled us, and gave us food. They also gave us a lot of hope. Mum was not close to any of her relatives, so whenever we had a desperate need she would tell me to seek assistance from World Vision." Following his mother's death, World Vision paid his school fees. Frank said, "I am ready to educate my fellow youth on AIDS because of the suffering I saw my mother going through and the fact that I have problems now because Mum died of AIDS."

Scenario 3: The Nanyonjo orphans in Uganda

"World Vision paid laborers to weed, prune, and mulch our banana plantation and to dig and weed sweet potatoes for us," said Sanyu. "Now the plants are healthy, we get big banana bunches, and we have enough food to eat." World Vision also built a house for the children and provided supplemental food, along with a heifer and two goats. Now the children can stay in school—also with World Vision's help—and have enough to eat.

The Opportunity (allow 20 minutes)

Have someone read the "Introduction" paragraph in the Participants' Study under "The Opportunity."

Focus on Scripture

Leader Shares: Individuals may have negative thoughts about AIDS because of the way it spreads. Regardless of how we feel about the disease, let's consider: What would Jesus do? Let's read the Bible to see what we can conclude.

- Read John 8:2-11. Who was to throw the first stone? What does this mean for us?
- Read James 1:27a. In the early days of the Church, a woman or orphan had few marketable skills or resources—like the widows and orphans now left when a spouse or parent dies of AIDS. What does this verse tell us about the importance of caring for widows and orphans?
- Read Matthew 22:39. If you were a child left alone with few resources, what would you want others to do? What do you think Christ would want us to do?

Reflection

Spend time in prayer, listening to what God is leading you to do. Talk about what your church has planned to do.