

**Scenario 1: The hungry children of Chanjoka, Malawi**

The children of Chanjoka village are hungry. Many of them are orphans, and many more are members of families whose basic resources are stretched too far because they are caring for orphaned relatives. In both cases, there isn't enough food to go around. The families' farming skills are inadequate. And now that the dry season has arrived, nothing will grow without a water source such as a river adjacent to their land—which they don't have. Lack of rain caused last year's harvest to fall far short of the needs. They have no job skills and no way to earn money to buy food, which is especially expensive now that food is in such short supply. There are still six months until the next harvest.

- You are part of an orphan family. What can you do to solve your problem with no outside help?
- What resources or skills do you need to solve your problem?

**Scenario 2: Frank from Tanzania**

Frank was born into hardship. His mother struggled alone to provide for her nine children, earning money however she could. In 1993 Frank's mother began falling sick. During his mother's last stages of illness, life became so desperate that Frank had to sell boiled eggs to buy school materials. By then, Frank was the oldest sibling still living with his mother. "I never believed my mother would die," Frank said, his voice choked with tears. His mother died in 1995. Frank was heartbroken, but remained determined to finish his education and "live an honorable life." Yet with few resources, that dream was fading fast.

- You are Frank. Tanzania's school system charges tuition and you must provide your own school supplies—but you can barely feed yourself. What can you do to solve your problem with no outside help?
- What resources or skills do you need to solve your problem?

**Scenario 3: The Nanyonjo orphans in Uganda**

Rose Mary Nanyonjo, now 13, became the mother and father of her siblings Anizio, Sanyu, Maria, and Sarah, after their parents died of AIDS-related causes—their father in 1999 and their mother in 2000. "Our parents left us with a dilapidated grass-thatched mud hut and a banana garden overgrown by bush," Rose remembers. "We couldn't clear the plantation or grow crops because we went to school and came back in the evening. We tried to dig on Saturdays but could not do much." The children were forced to survive on food handouts from neighbors, but the neighbors live in poverty as well, and struggle to feed themselves. Many days the children simply went to bed hungry.

- You are Rose. What are you going to do to get enough food with no outside help?
- What resources or skills do you need to solve your problem?

**The Opportunity**

*Introduction:* Chuck Colson says, "The crisis of the AIDS orphans cries out for the kind of response only Christians can deliver: one that combines compassion with respect for the truth." Christians can address this crisis on a spiritual level that is impossible for government agencies and secular charities. The Church has the opportunity to save this younger generation. Many churches in poor AIDS-affected communities are teaching the young to avoid contracting HIV through abstinence. These same churches are doing what they can to care for the orphans' needs. Yet the churches, because they are in poor communities, often lack the resources they need to fully address the needs of the orphans, widows, and sick.

**Focus on Scripture**

- Read John 8:2-11
- Read James 1:27
- Read Matthew 22:39

**Pray as you end.**

Talk with your church about getting involved to help orphans, widows, and children in need. The Hope Initiative "A Generation to Save" Tool Kit that your pastor received has some great ideas for how you can help turn the tide against the spread of HIV/AIDS and help those whose communities are most affected. Find out more about what your church is doing!



# a generation to save

Bible Study Teacher'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 HIV/AIDS crisis on millions of innocent children
- Explain how Bible verses offer direction in 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" and three short segments
- Resource 2: HIV/AIDS Statistics

1. **View the first video segment** (9 minutes) or read the story at the top of the Participants' Study
2. **Understanding the HIV/AIDS crisis**

*Teacher Shares:* AIDS is killing Africa—and now is migrating to new continents on its deadly tour of the world's poorest countries. Why is HIV/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 refuse 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, more than 14 million poor children have been left with few resources or skills to care for themselves. At the current rate, the number of orphans is expected to skyrocket to 25 million by 2010. As these children struggle to live, 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, and comfort them when they are lonely.

3. **Focus on Scripture:** Read Matthew 25:31-40 and discuss the following questions:
  - In context of what we're learning about the HIV/AIDS crisis and its impact on children, what does this verse mean to you?
  - Considering this parable, how important is it to God that we care for the "least of these." Why?

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

**Activity Objective:** Participants will see that poor people often lack the skills and/or resources to solve their own problems—but often the solution is simple if they receive help from others.

**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 you can read (below) what World Vision did to solve that challenge, and why.

### 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 were fed using food supplies provided by World Vision. 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 of her and her sisters. "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.

### 1. Focus on Scripture

*Teacher Shares:* Individuals may have negative thoughts about AIDS because of the way it spreads. Regardless of how we feel about the disease, I challenge you with this simple question: What would Jesus do? Let's read some scripture to see what we can conclude.

- Read John 8:2-11. Who was to be the first to throw the stone? What does this mean for us today?
- Read James 1:27. 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?

### 2. Reflection

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



## The Need

Watch the first 9-minute segment on the video or read the following story:

### A Matter of Survival

Ronald Kibuule, 10, lives in a world of hunger. His mud-floor hut is filled with the smell of rust from a bicycle deteriorating in a corner—but there's no hint of food. The granaries that once brimmed with cassava flour are empty. The gardens that overflowed with sweet potatoes are filled with weeds.

Ronald lives in this makeshift home with four brothers—the oldest 15. Their father died in 1996, followed by their mother in 2000.

For a few months the children were able to live with their grandmother. But then she died late in 2000, and the children were left to care for themselves. They have to scavenge their own food, clothe themselves, walk to the village well for water, and maintain some form of shelter.

The boys go to school, but finding food competes with their time to get an education. Ronald's torn t-shirt, the favorite of the two pieces of clothing he owns, reveals bony shoulders. The children's breakfast is a mug of water, which has to last them until supper. On rare occasions when they have enough at dinner, they have the leftovers for breakfast.

These children are starving. They spend more time worrying about the next meal than realizing their God-given potential. They are proud of their hoe, but their lack of farming skills makes food scarce. When mangoes are in season, the children stuff themselves with the fruit that grows at school. It is too painful waiting for the mangoes to grow, Ronald says, so he and his brothers begin eating them when they are raw. Raw mangoes may not provide much nutrition, but they are better than nothing.

## The Challenge: What Would You Do?

People who live in poverty often lack the skills and/or resources to solve their own problems—but often the solution is simple if they receive help from others.

Each group will read one of the following three scenarios, which are real situations orphans face regularly. Ask yourselves the questions at the end of the scenario, and decide what you would do if you had no outside help. After your group has reached a decision about a possible solution, each group will read their scenario to the class and share their solutions. Then the teacher will read what the Christian humanitarian organization World Vision did to solve that challenge, and why.