



a generation to save

Pastor's Speaking Points

Directions: Use this script or create your own as you present "AIDS: A Generation to Save" to your church congregation.

- **AIDS is uncomfortable to discuss.** When most of us think about the disease, our images are of what AIDS has been in the United States, entwined with uncomfortable issues of intravenous drug use, homosexuality, and sexual infidelity.
- **The reality of HIV/AIDS is overwhelming.** Today, in many developing nations, HIV/AIDS is leaving wives without their husbands. Children are watching their fathers and mothers die. There are 14 million orphans worldwide who are innocent victims of HIV/AIDS. In most cases, the children are AIDS-free. But they are left alone, sometimes to fend for themselves, sometimes taken in by grandparents and relatives with already-strained resources.
 - Every 14 seconds a child is orphaned due to HIV/AIDS.
 - There are currently 14 million orphans due to HIV/AIDS.
By 2010, the crisis is estimated to leave 25 million children orphaned.
 - 22 million people have already died; one in four of them were children.
- **The AIDS crisis demands a God-sized answer.** The problem seems overwhelming. How does God call us to help? By praying for them, by getting involved, and by connecting with the people, churches, and communities in AIDS-affected regions around the world. As Christians, we are called to respond beyond what government agencies and secular charities can do, by calling upon the power of God. In James 1:27a, God tells us that "pure and faultless" religion is to "look after orphans and widows in their distress." The church has the opportunity to lead on this issue. As Chuck Colson has said, "The crisis of AIDS orphans cries out for the kind of response only Christians can deliver: one that combines compassion with a respect for the truth."
- **We can turn the tide.** In the three minutes that I've been sharing with you, 12 more children have lost a parent to the AIDS pandemic. But we can do something. We can be Christ's hands and feet by caring for orphans and widows through programs that give them food, health care, economic development support, and spiritual nurturing. We can save the next generation by teaching them abstinence and marital faithfulness as keys to prevention. We can advocate for compassion for the suffering.
- **Here's what our church is doing.** We've set up a table in _____ and urge you to please stop by after the service to find out how you can get involved.

For additional statistics, please see the enclosed HIV/AIDS Index. At World Vision, we want to be a resource for you to keep your congregation informed about this crisis. Call the Hope Line at **1.888.303.2003** or visit our web site at www.worldvision.org/churches online.