

2024
PRESENTATION
GUIDE

LOVE WITH ACTIONS & IN TRUTH

COMPASSION.sunday®

Shinah | UGANDA



WELCOME^{TO} YOUR COMPASSION SUNDAY PRESENTATION GUIDE!

We're so grateful that you want to connect children in poverty with caring sponsors.

This booklet will make it easy to plan a fantastic Compassion Sunday event and prepare your heart for God to work through you. Our team is here to support you every step of the way!

If you have questions about anything in this booklet, just call us at **888-503-4585** or visit **compassionsunday.com**.



DEAR CHILD ADVOCATE,

Thank you so much for your desire to speak on behalf of children living in poverty. In Matthew 10:42 (NIV), Jesus says, “If anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones who is my disciple, truly I tell you, that person will certainly not lose their reward.” By hosting a Compassion Sunday event, you are giving little ones so much more than a cup of water. We’re sincerely grateful for your taking action by giving your time, creativity and passion.

Your voice is greatly needed, friend. Even before the pandemic, there were an estimated 333 million children living in extreme poverty, meaning their families are struggling to survive on less than \$2.15 a day. Increased cost of living, wars and inflation are contributing to a global food crisis. In a time when children in poverty can’t even depend on their next meal, being able to depend on a loving neighborhood of support is more crucial than ever.

Even though you can keep your Compassion Sunday very simple, it will make a big impact. Every year, the lives of children in desperate need are transformed because advocates like you choose to **love with actions and in truth** (1 John 3:18, NIV). And it’s our honor to walk beside you as you take this life-changing action.

This booklet is your complete guide to planning a fantastic Compassion Sunday event. You’ll find an outline you can use to form your presentation, pro tips and answers to frequently asked questions. We hope you spend some time reading it to find all the support you need!

Thank you again for choosing to love with actions and in truth. We’re so happy to call you our neighbor!

In Christ,

Your friends at Compassion

WE'RE IN THIS TOGETHER!

Let's go over the steps for hosting a great Compassion Sunday event. If you get stuck or intimidated at any point, please call us at **888-503-4585** and we'll get you set up with a personal Compassion Sunday coach. We will work with you to help you express your love with actions and in truth.

1

TALK TO YOUR PASTOR.

The most impactful Compassion Sunday events are those with the church pastor fully on board. Here are some helpful tips to start from a strong foundation:

Give your pastor the Pastor's Guide included in the planning guide. It's a great tool to help him or her understand more about child sponsorship and Compassion Sunday.

Get your pastor's permission to host a Compassion Sunday event at your church.

Set a date for the event. Most people will host their Compassion Sunday event on April 28, but please feel free to pick a date that works best for you and your church.



2

REGISTER YOUR EVENT.

Once you've talked to your pastor and chosen the best date for your church, register your event by visiting compassion.com/RegisterToday, calling **888-503-4585** or mailing the enclosed registration form.



3

PLAN YOUR PRESENTATION.

That's what this booklet is all about! Throughout the next 10 pages, you'll find tools to help you prepare exactly what you want to share with your church family. But before that, decide what kind of presentation you want to give.

Your presentation and event are fully yours — we can help customize with child packets from certain countries or provide extra supplies if you need them. We're here to help with whatever you need!

Here are some options:

**GETS THE
MOST KIDS
SPONSORED**

Full experience. Fill your Sunday service with relevant Scripture readings, worship songs, a video, a personal presentation by you and a sermon by your pastor. Or use amazing new resources from BibleProject for a multiweek experience teaching your church family about Jesus' heart for poverty.

**MOST
POPULAR**

3- to 5-minute announcement. Share a few personal thoughts, play the video and invite people to sponsor a child in need — it can all happen during announcements!

SIMPLE

10- to 12-minute presentation. Your personal sponsorship story, paired with the video, is bound to move people to sponsor a child themselves.

VIRTUAL

Virtual event. We have an entire team dedicated to working with you to make your virtual event a success. Simply email us at churches@compassion.com or give us a call at **888-503-4585**.

Once you've decided on length and format, look through this booklet to find tips, facts and inspiration for your presentation! And if you'd like support from a former Compassion Sunday host, just reach out and let us know.

4

PRAY CONTINUALLY.

Put the prayer card found in this folder in a prominent place as a reminder to pray for Compassion Sunday and the lives that will be changed — both in your church and around the world!



Clarisse | BURKINA FASO

SUGGESTED PRESENTATION

You may know exactly what you want to share with your church family. If not, here's an outline you can use, which we developed with experienced Compassion Sunday hosts. It worked for them, and it will work for you!

I. INTRODUCTION

"Hi, my name is (your name). I'm so grateful that Pastor (name) gave me this chance to speak to you about something I'm very passionate about. Today we're one of many churches in the U.S. taking part in Compassion Sunday, a day set aside to help children living in poverty."

"I'd like to begin by sharing a story with you. (Number of months/years) ago, I began a very special relationship with a child named (your sponsored child's name)."

Show a photo of your sponsored child, if possible. *"(Child's name) is (age) and lives in poverty in (country). I was introduced to (him/her) through Compassion International, an organization dedicated to releasing children from poverty in Jesus' name. They do so by connecting children living in poverty with loving sponsors — people like you and me."*

II. SHARE YOUR "WHY"

"I chose to sponsor (child's name) because (your reason). My sponsorship connects (him/her) to a local church where (he/she) receives physical, emotional and spiritual care."

"(Child's name) is one of 333 million children who live in extreme poverty — meaning they survive on less than \$2.15 per day. Can you imagine? The pandemic and food inflation have increased poverty around the world. That means more children are going to bed hungry. More parents are unable to send their children to school or buy them medicine when they're sick. In a time when children don't even know where their next meal might come from, we can provide stability and hope."

PRO TIP: Go deeper into your sponsorship story. Here's how:

Share how sponsorship has blessed you. What have you learned?

Show letters you have received from your sponsored child.

Explain how impactful it has been for you to partner with the local church in caring for your sponsored child.

III. READ FROM SCRIPTURE

"I'm sharing this with you today because 1 John 3:18 tells us to love with actions and in truth. Sponsoring (child's name) is one way I'm able to do that — I believe that sponsoring a child in poverty is action that is founded in the truth of Jesus' message to the world."

Share a favorite verse or Scripture reading that is relevant to your message. See suggestions on Page 9.

IV. SHARE THE VIDEO

If you are unable to show the video, simply move on to the next section.

"Before I wrap up, I have a video to show you so you can see how life-changing sponsorship can be for a child in poverty."

V. CLOSING THOUGHTS

"Being involved with Compassion has helped me discover God's heart for the most vulnerable in the world. Compassion has put a face to poverty and made it a very personal mission for me to help release children from poverty in Jesus' name. The video we just watched makes me believe that God is calling us — the Church — to step up."

"Today, I'd like to invite you to share that message of hope with a child in poverty in the most tangible way through child sponsorship. When you say yes to sponsorship, you'll not only offer hope for the future to a child who desperately needs it, but you'll also find fulfillment in your own life as you live out and obey God's commands to love with actions and in truth."

"Your sponsorship connects a child with a local church, where caring staff and volunteers are committed to every child's healthy development. Plus, you can encourage and invest in the child through letter writing."

VI. CALL TO ACTION

"Is God calling you to step into a child's future today? Come visit me (insert location) after the service, and I'll help you choose a child to sponsor and answer any questions."

"At (your church's name), we are called to love in actions and in truth. This is a great opportunity to do just that."

"Thank you for your time. I hope to talk to you after the service."

PERSONALIZE YOUR PRESENTATION

Whether or not you use the suggested presentation on pages 6 and 7, this section will help you personalize your message. Sprinkle in some of the Bible verses and poverty facts below to shape your unique talk. You can even take this booklet onstage to guide you through your presentation!

If you aren't going with the suggested presentation, you still might find it helpful to follow this outline:

I. INTRODUCTION

II. SHARE YOUR “WHY”

POVERTY FACTS

Over 8% of the world's population lives on less than \$2.15 per day.

There are over 2 billion people globally who don't have access to safe drinking water.

An estimated 333 million children live in extreme poverty.

Each day, 6,400 newborns die — most of them in low-income countries.

Nearly half of deaths of children under 5 are linked to undernutrition.

One in every five children worldwide is chronically malnourished.

Sources: UNICEF, WHO and World Bank. Figures reflect the most recent data available as of September 2023.

III. READ FROM SCRIPTURE

IV. SHARE THE VIDEO

V. CLOSING THOUGHTS

VI. CALL TO ACTION

BIBLE VERSES For more Bible verses and poverty facts, check out [compassion.com/FindResources](https://www.compassion.com/FindResources).

Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth. — 1 John 3:18

“Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.” — Luke 18:16

“Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.” — Matthew 25:40

But God will never forget the needy; the hope of the afflicted will never perish. — Psalm 9:18

Learn to do right; seek justice. Defend the oppressed. Take up the cause of the fatherless; plead the case of the widow. — Isaiah 1:17

“And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones who is my disciple, truly I tell you, that person will certainly not lose their reward.” — Matthew 10:42

Note: All Scripture quotations are taken from the New International Version.

HELPFUL HINTS

Now that you've decided what to share with your church family, consider these helpful tips for the day of your presentation.

TIPS FOR PRESENTING WELL

These suggestions will help you speak with confidence at your Compassion Sunday event!

Practice, practice, practice! The best way to feel confident about your presentation is to rehearse as much as you can. If you're using a PowerPoint presentation, remember to practice with that too!

Pro tip: Practice it out loud. Ask a friend or family member to sit, listen and give you advice afterward!

Share your heart. Stories and experiences are so powerful. Don't be afraid to share how much child sponsorship has meant to you.

Pro tip: Read through the letters you've received from your sponsored child for inspiration.

Breathe deeply, smile and take time while you're speaking. If you're nervous, it's easy to talk too fast — it happens to the best of us!

Pro tip: While rehearsing your presentation, smile and take a breath between each sentence. It'll feel funky at first, but it will help train your brain to slow down on the day you present.

Focus on the eternal importance of what you're sharing rather than on your feelings. By hosting a Compassion Sunday event, you will help children escape the cycle of poverty!

Pro tip: The morning before you present, take a few minutes to watch the Compassion Sunday video. It will remind you of the power in sponsorship!

Pray intentionally before your event. Invite God to use you to further his kingdom through your Compassion Sunday event.

Pro tip: Read the back of the prayer card included in this folder to inspire your prayers.

ENHANCE YOUR PRESENTATION

Here are some hints to help your audience connect with your message.

Showcase child packets.

Seeing the faces of actual children will help your audience connect with your call to action. Hold up child packets as you speak or put a photo of one of them in your PowerPoint presentation.

Share child letters.

Letters from your sponsored child prove the real connection between sponsors and children. Bring copies of letters you've received from your child, and consider highlighting parts that really touched you.

Prepare a table.

Make sure you have a surface to display child packets during your Compassion Sunday event. A well-decorated table draws people in. After registering your event, you will receive an Event Kit filled with decorations. But it never hurts to add your own personal touches — like flowers or a special tablecloth!





BE INSPIRED!

Compassion Sunday is a powerful day when the Church unites to love children in poverty with actions and in truth.

Brittany's family cares deeply about the children they sponsor. So hosting a Compassion Sunday event last year was an exciting chance to tell their church family why. *"I chose to host Compassion Sunday because I know there are lots of people in our church that would want to sponsor if they knew more about it,"* she says. *"And ultimately I know the Lord led me to host this event."*

On the Sunday of her event, Brittany's pastor gave a powerful sermon about caring for orphans. Afterward, Brittany

says there was *"a great turnout"* of people visiting her sponsorship table to ask questions. *"Most of them chose to sponsor a child!"* she says.

Brittany's favorite part was seeing families come together to choose which child to sponsor. *"The kids in the families would get so excited and anxious to take a packet home,"* she says. *"It warms my heart to know that they will get to learn to help serve, love and care for children in poverty. And most of all to show them Jesus through letters and gifts."*



Sarah hosted a Compassion Sunday event at her church in Florida last year because her congregation's missional values closely align with Compassion's.

"I knew that many of our members would appreciate the chance to serve the poor in this particular, relational, church-based way," Sarah says. "I also know that sometimes it takes a 'nudge' — a tangible, immediate opportunity to act — in order for people to follow up on things they care about but don't know how to address."

It wasn't Sarah's first time hosting a Compassion Sunday event, but she was

still in awe of how well it went. "Every time I host this, which is about every two years, I am blown away by the response."

The high point for Sarah was when a family took a child packet home to research Compassion and consider sponsoring.

"At home, praying about the decision, they realized that the child shared a birthday with the father of this family, which was the next day," says Sarah. "They started sponsoring this child on his birthday, encouraged that the Lord sees each of us individually and is involved in the details!"

We think you'll find extra inspiration in the true stories of people who have boldly spoken the truth and took action to connect children in poverty with sponsors who are looking for a way to put feet to their faith. These stories from real-life hosts show the dedication and passion of child advocates like you! May their stories remind you of all God can do through one person who listens to his voice.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

I'M NOT SURE I CAN GET MY PASTOR'S OK. WHAT SHOULD I DO?

We have a dedicated team of church specialists who can talk with your church and pastor on your behalf. You can reach them directly by emailing churches@compassion.com.

WHEN SHOULD I HOST A COMPASSION SUNDAY EVENT AT MY CHURCH?

The official date for Compassion Sunday is April 28. But we know that day won't work for everyone. We have people hosting events throughout the year! So we encourage you to choose any date that best suits your schedule. Talk to your pastor about what weekend would work best for your church, and then register your event.

CAN I HOST A COMPASSION SUNDAY EVENT OUTSIDE MY CHURCH?

While we encourage you to host in your home church, sometimes that's not possible. Compassion Sunday events can work well in other settings, like Bible studies, small group meetings, Sunday school classes, school classrooms, book clubs or any other group.

WHAT IS AN EVENT KIT?

Once you register your event, we'll send you an Event Kit in the mail. The kit has everything you need to run a successful Compassion Sunday event at your church. It includes posters, a tabletop display, information sheets, and an instruction guide with a helpful event checklist. Plus, it'll have one of the new Compassion Sunday T-shirts!

CAN I HOST A DIGITAL EVENT?

Absolutely. If you'd like to host a digital event, simply email us at churches@compassion.com or give us a call at **888-503-4585**.



WHAT DO I DO IF I HAVE LEFTOVER CHILD PACKETS?

If possible, use the Event Kit materials to display the leftover packets at your church after the event. These packets are unique to your church; please do not send them back to Compassion. On the back of each child packet, you will find an expiration date — the child will be assigned to your church until that date. Once the packet expires, you can throw it away or take it home as a reminder to pray for that child, who will be electronically returned to our system so that someone else can sponsor them.

WHAT DO I DO WITH THE CHILD PACKETS THAT PEOPLE FILL OUT AND HAND BACK TO ME?

Collect the filled out forms from your event and place them, along with any checks you've collected, in the prepaid FedEx envelope supplied with the child packets. Fill out the address label and contact fedex.com for a pickup, or drop the package off at the nearest FedEx location as soon as you can after your event.

HOW CAN I COMMUNICATE THAT COMPASSION IS A TRUSTWORTHY ORGANIZATION?

Compassion has millions of alumni around the world whose lives have been changed. They are doctors, pastors, lawyers, government workers and community leaders. Research indicates that sponsorship is a reliable and effective way to help children — as we have seen through alumni. But Compassion goes further by working exclusively through local churches to deliver our program. The program cares for children's spiritual and physical needs — all through a local church just like yours.

We are 100% committed to working with local churches — and have over 8,000 evangelical Christian church partners overseas delivering services and ministry to more than 2 million children. Plus, Compassion submits an annual audit and sends field auditors to thousands of program sites each year to ensure your funds are used properly and only to release children from poverty in Jesus' name. For more information, check out compassion.com/financial.



Talita, Thalies, Ulisses & friends | BRAZIL

