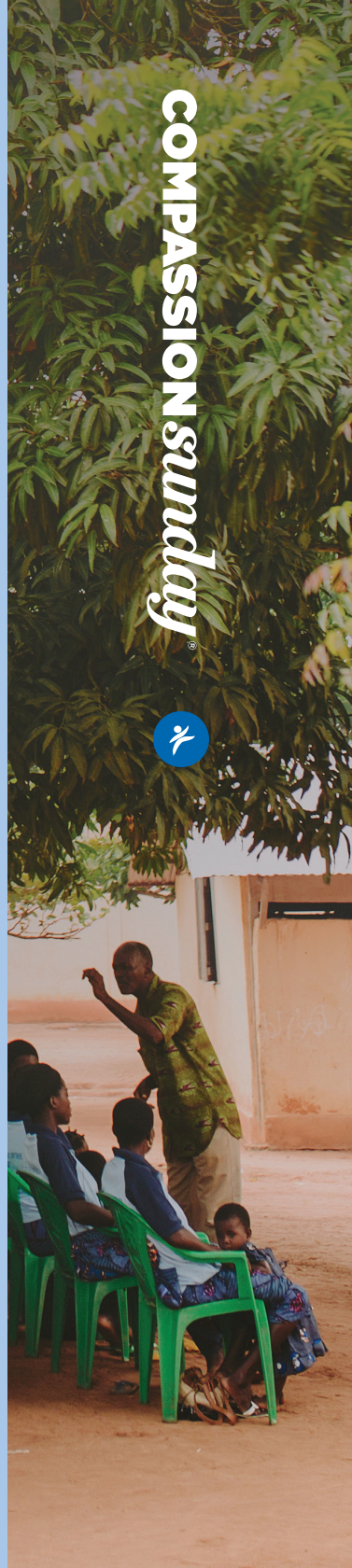


COMPASSION *sunday*



Activate the Great Commission

PASTOR GUIDE



You're Invited

Like you and your church family, we're bold in our faith and believe Jesus is the truest source of transformation. To overcome all forms of poverty – especially spiritual poverty – children must encounter the hope of the gospel. That's why every child in Compassion's program has the chance to know Jesus and hold a Bible of their own.

And that's why we're inviting you to unite with churches around the world in releasing children from poverty in Jesus' name. **Compassion Sunday offers your church a chance to make an eternal difference in the lives of children in desperate need.**

This Compassion Sunday, your church can help turn this mission into reality. Will you join us in spreading the gospel and releasing children from poverty in Jesus' name?



COMPASSION *sunday*



Jhonatan, age 5

● BOLIVIA



Dear pastor,

I pray this letter finds you well, and I trust that God's provision is carrying you and your congregation through these challenging times. It's inspiring to see all God is doing as his Church comes together around the world.

When we unite in Jesus' name, extraordinary change happens. This booklet introduces Compassion Sunday, a powerful opportunity for your church to join others worldwide in spreading the gospel.

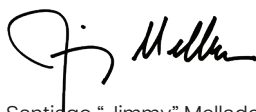
By reaching children in desperate need with the hope of Jesus, your church can make an eternal difference. We would be honored to support your ministry as you inspire your congregation's faith in global missions.

Partnering with us through child sponsorship can break the cycle of poverty. Whether through a testimony shared during a service, a brief announcement or a multi-week experience, Compassion Sunday will mobilize your congregation to put their faith into action.

We're also excited to offer you bonus resources in partnership with BibleProject. These include sermon outlines, videos and discussion guides – all designed to help inspire your congregation to step out in faith.

Thank you for considering how Compassion can support your ministry's mission. We are privileged to stand alongside you in this crucial work of releasing children from poverty in Jesus' name.

Blessings,



Santiago "Jimmy" Mellado
President and CEO
Compassion International

Who is Compassion International?

We are a Christian ministry that partners with churches across the globe to release children from the cycle of poverty.



We believe that *no child should live in poverty* and that the best way to release children from poverty is to do it *in Jesus' name* — *in partnership with local churches.*

WE ARE

Christ-Centered



We are bold in our faith. We believe Jesus is the truest source of transformation and that for children to overcome poverty in all its forms they must encounter the hope of the gospel.



Cinthia, age 10,
and her pastor who
is delivering food to
Cinthia's home.

● ECUADOR

Church-Driven



We partner exclusively with local churches so each child is welcomed into a faith community that knows them by name, cares for their needs and champions their victory over poverty.

Child-Focused



We believe breaking the cycle of poverty starts with children. We connect one child to one sponsor so that each child is uniquely loved and supported. Whether children face hunger, sickness or loneliness, sponsorship enables their local church to customize their care by offering meals, tutoring, medical care or even a hug on a hard day.

Why Join Compassion Sunday?



Children laugh at their
local Compassion center

● ETHIOPIA



Compassion Sunday accelerates the work God is already doing in your church. When you host a Compassion Sunday event...

You bring the mission field into your church building.

Whether you're deeply involved in missions or just starting out, we're here to help your church engage globally. On Compassion Sunday, your congregants can fulfill the Great Commission by sponsoring a child in need from across the world – all within your sanctuary.

You connect generations to a common cause.

You won't just change the lives of children in need – you'll spark transformation across your entire church. Child sponsorship invites men, women and children of all ages to journey together with compassion, creating deep connections with a global community of believers.


You enable lasting, long-term transformation.

We know the hope of being known and loved by God. For children, sponsorship offers this hope and practical care, changing lives. Research shows sponsorship helps kids stay in school longer, boosts self-esteem and equips them to be change-makers in their communities.¹

You nurture generosity within your congregation.

Pastors have shared that child sponsorship often leads to greater generosity. Instead of giving less to the church, many sponsors end up giving more. Sponsors learn to trust God more with their finances as they witness the impact their support makes in children's lives.

1. Journal of Political Economy, April 2013



Tesalonika, age 10

● INDONESIA



What is Compassion Sunday?

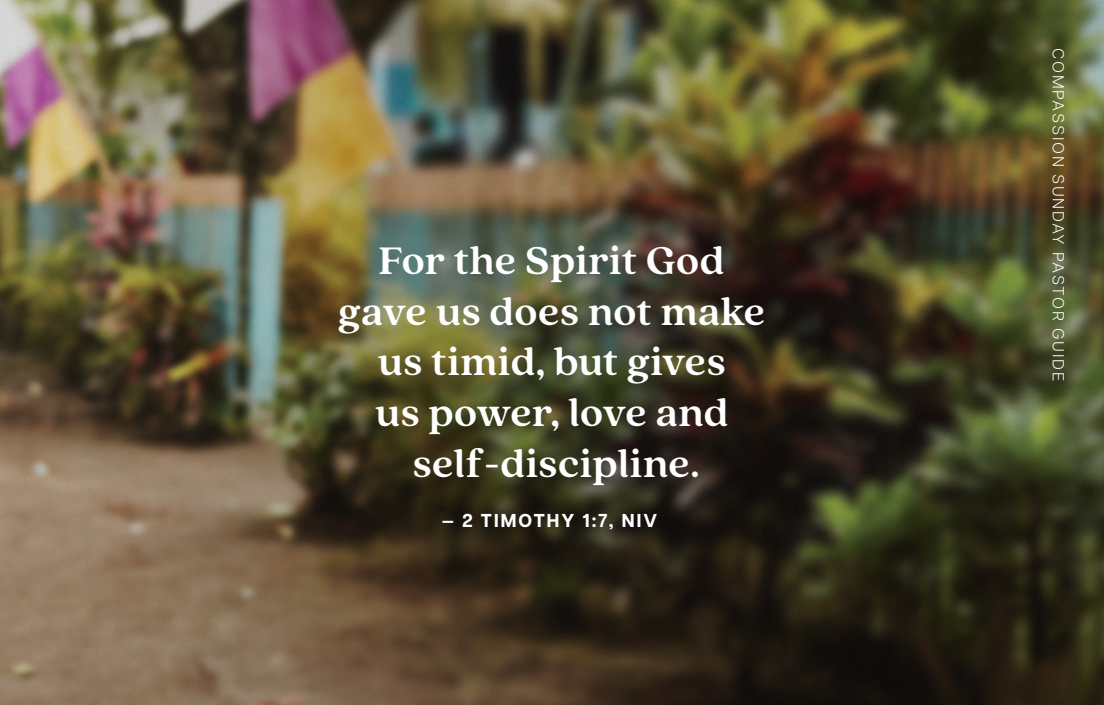
Compassion Sunday mobilizes your church to activate the Great Commission so that every child has the chance to meet Jesus and be released from poverty in all its forms.

During your church service, your congregation will be invited to put their faith into action by sponsoring waiting children living in poverty.

The event usually involves:

- **A message** or short testimony from you or a Compassion sponsor in your congregation.
- **A short video** highlighting the hope a sponsor can bring to a child's life.
- **A call to action** inviting your congregation to sponsor a child.
- **A sign-up table** where people can choose a child to sponsor.

Whether you or a volunteer hosts Compassion Sunday, we'll provide all the support you need to make this leap of faith one you'll be thankful for!



For the Spirit God
gave us does not make
us timid, but gives
us power, love and
self-discipline.

– 2 TIMOTHY 1:7, NIV

A Meaningful Missions Experience for Your Church

More than just a one-day event, Compassion Sunday supports your ministry goals and empowers you as a leader.

Whether your church is already active in missions or you're introducing a global mindset for the first time, we can help you design a Compassion Sunday experience that deepens your church's involvement.

- **You choose where ministry happens.** Your Compassion Sunday event can focus on a part of the world where you're already on mission, or it can introduce your church to different countries across the globe.
- **Align it with your ministry calendar** and take creative control over how and when it fits into your service.

The Church, Our Exclusive Mission Partner

We do all our work through local churches to ensure each child is embraced by a faith community that knows them by name, meets their needs and supports their journey out of poverty.

Through Compassion Sunday, your congregation will help empower thousands of dedicated church leaders in vulnerable communities worldwide to be the hands and feet of Jesus.

Starting with the gospel, we introduce children to Jesus as their Great Physician, Provider, Protector and Comforter. They learn that Jesus is the ultimate hope, no matter what challenges arise.



Meet Pastor Raúl and Sister Graciela, two of these inspiring leaders.

The couple transformed Normandia, Bolivia, from a garbage dump into a thriving community through their partnership with Compassion. Starting their ministry under a tree, connecting with Compassion led to a church, a child development center, a medical clinic and complete community revival. Raúl and Graciela are amazed at how God has been at work all along – using the global Church to empower their local congregation to be his hands and feet.





“God is a God who heals and restores. We the Church are his hands and feet. [We bring] comfort and support to families, also food and medications. This is our task: to do, to share, to carry through us, the Church, this wonderful grace that God has commissioned us. We embrace, we bless, we care.”

– Pastor Raúl

Frontline church partner

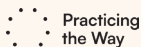
Resources

If you'd like to make Compassion Sunday more than just one day in the life of your church, we've got you covered! We've partnered with friends of Compassion to offer high-quality resources for hosting a successful Compassion Sunday series. These include:

-  Videos
-  Sermon outlines
-  Resources for kids and families
-  Small group discussion guides

Whether you use these resources as inspiration for one service or a week-long journey into God's heart for the poor, you'll find them helpful for your one-day Compassion Sunday event.

Get your free resources at
compassion.com/resources



A Ministry Partner You Can Trust

Our mission is to release as many children from poverty in Jesus' name as possible. For that reason, we use financial contributions wisely – that's our commitment to you today and through many future years of ministry together.

Sponsorship effectiveness is actively monitored to improve over time and ensure donations are stewarded well.

Compassion International regularly receives high ratings for financial accountability, transparency and integrity from third-party charity rating agencies. You can be confident that we are devoted to outstanding financial stewardship.



Visit compassion.com/financial for more information.

A Program That Works

Research proves it. Sponsorship connects vulnerable children to ultimate hope and practical care as they journey out of poverty.

Take a look! When compared to youth who were not part of Compassion's program, Compassion youth were:

284% more likely
to be in school
(Tanzania, aged 12-14).

91% more likely to
evangelize (Ecuador,
aged 16-18)

80% more likely to
pray in desire for a
relationship with God
(El Salvador, youth)

63% more likely to
attend church regularly
(Peru, aged 15-17)

47% more likely
to have at least one
income-generating skill
(Indonesia, aged 16-18)

45% more likely
to disciple others (El
Salvador, youth)

Source: Program Outcome and Effectiveness Measurement (POEM) Research, Compassion International

How to Take Action

Ready to activate your church's faith this Compassion Sunday by releasing children from poverty in Jesus' name? A heartfelt thank you! Your decision can impact eternity and bring joy beyond our understanding.

Your next steps

- **Say “yes!”** to the volunteer who gave you this guide and decide on a date for your event.
- **Discuss** whether your event will be a simple announcement, a moment for the volunteer to share their story, or part of the whole service.
- **Decide the role you will play in the event:** simply introduce the Compassion Sunday host or take a more active part. *Note: We've learned that the most impactful events are those where the pastor leads the way.*

Here to Help

We're here to support you in making your church's event a powerful opportunity to help the vulnerable and expand God's kingdom.

If you have questions, please reach out to our church engagement team by calling **888-503-4585** or emailing **churches@compassion.com**.



Pastor Raúl,
Frontline church partner
● BOLIVIA

“Joining with Compassion was joining visions. The church partnerships Compassion does are very important, because the church is in the community. They are the ones doing the work there. The church is the arms, embracing children, blessing the children, giving a hug or praying.”