

THE REALITIES OF POVERTY: SERMON TALKING POINTS

We pray these key points help open eyes and hearts
to the plight of children living in extreme poverty.

WHAT DOES EXTREME POVERTY LOOK LIKE?

The facts are heartbreaking ...

- Today, 385 million children around the world live in extreme poverty — their families make less than \$1.90 per day. Poverty often leaves children vulnerable to abuse, exploitation and violence.
- Every five seconds, a child dies mostly from preventable causes. The majority of these deaths occur in the child's first five years of life.
- Half the world lacks access to healthcare, which means that millions of children don't receive important medical checkups or treatment when they desperately need it.
- Sadly, one in three children around the world suffers from malnutrition.
- It's hard to believe that 2.2 billion people still lack access to safe drinking water. Each year, 297,000 children under the age of 5 die from diarrhea linked to inadequate water, sanitation and hygiene.
- Globally, one in five children do not go to school. Many kids who do attend school are too hungry, sick or exhausted from working to learn.

GOD HAS INCREDIBLE COMPASSION FOR THE POOR.

- Psalm 12:5: "Because the poor are plundered and the needy groan, I will now arise," says the Lord. "I will protect them from those who malign them."
- Psalm 109:30-31: "With my mouth I will greatly extol the Lord; in the great throng of worshipers I will praise him. For he stands at the right hand of the needy, to save their lives from those who would condemn them."
- Isaiah 25:4: "You have been a refuge for the poor, a refuge for the needy in their distress, a shelter from the storm and a shade from the heat."

HE WANTS TO MEET THE NEEDS OF THE POOR THROUGH YOU AND ME.

- Isaiah 58:6-9: "Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke? Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter — when you see the naked, to clothe them, and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood? Then your light will break forth like the dawn, and your healing will quickly appear; then your righteousness will go before you, and the glory of the Lord will be your rear guard. Then you will call, and the Lord will answer; you will cry for help, and he will say: 'Here am I.'"
- Proverbs 31:8-9: "Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy."
- Acts 20:35: "In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"

WE HELP THOSE IN NEED BECAUSE GOD'S LOVE LIVES IN US.

- John 13:35: "By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."
- 1 John 3:16-18: "This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth."
- 1 John 4:16: "God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them."

SPONSOR A CHILD TO TRANSFORM A LIFE AND SHARE GOD'S LOVE!

- When you sponsor a boy or girl with OneChild, you provide *life-changing* care like medical checkups, nutritious food, safe water, educational opportunities and mentoring. And most important — kids learn about God's everlasting love. Through sponsorship, you give a child the tools to break the cycle of poverty and thrive!
- Sponsoring is a unique opportunity to speak truth into a child's life. Poverty often robs children of hope. Many kids give up on their dreams. But through your letters and prayers, you can build a special relationship with your child and bring encouragement.
- You can also share God's love and remind your child that God has wonderful plans for him or her. Sponsorship doesn't just free children from physical, economic, and social poverty — it also frees children from spiritual poverty.

EMBRACE THE GREAT COMMISSION.

- In Matthew 28:19, Jesus instructs us to share His love with the world: "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."
- OneChild goes to some of the hardest places in the world — no matter how remote or dangerous. Many of these places don't have roads, infrastructure or medical facilities. But OneChild believes in sharing God's love with the world!
- Sponsoring a child is an incredible opportunity to embrace the Great Commission and share the love of Jesus with a child who lives in another country. This is also an opportunity to live out your faith and make an eternal impact!

SHARE GOD'S LOVE AND HE WILL BLESS YOU.

- Proverbs 19:17: "Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will reward them for what they have done."
- 2 Corinthians 9:6-8: "Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work."

- 1 Timothy 6:18-19: "Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life."

OUR GENEROSITY BRINGS JOY TO OUR HEAVENLY FATHER.

- Proverbs 14:31: "Whoever oppresses the poor shows contempt for their Maker, but whoever is kind to the needy honors God."
- Hebrews 13:16: "And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased."
- Micah 6:8: "He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God."
- When you bless someone in need, you are actually blessing Jesus! Matthew 25:35-40 tells us: "'For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.' Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?' The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'" Sponsoring a child is an amazing way to be close to Jesus' heart.

Please stop by the Child Sponsorship Table after the service. You'll have an opportunity to change a child's life and share God's love in a powerful way! And when you sponsor a child, your life changes too. You'll be incredibly blessed, knowing that you are giving a child hope for the future!