



Orphan Sunday

MAIN THING

Christians have one of four responses to the orphan crisis in the world: sponsorship, mentoring, fostering, and adoption.

SCRIPTURE

James 1:27, Galatians 4:4-7, Romans 8:14-17, Matthew 1:18-25

ICEBREAKER

When commercials for organizations like world vision or compassion International come on, what is your first reaction? Have you ever made a decision one way or the other, after watching them, to act? Why or why not?

OPENING THOUGHT

God's most powerful statements in the Bible concern our care for widows and orphans. How we treat the widows and orphans in our lives shows a great deal about how much respect we have for God's word. The four levels of orphan care are: 1) sponsorship, 2) mentoring, 3) fostering, 4) adoption. We call all Christians to participate in at least one level of orphan care. Jesus Himself was adopted by Joseph. If our Lord and Savior needed an adoptive father, so do the rest of the children in this world.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What was one thing that stood out to you from this weekend's service?
2. Read James 1:27. What is pure and faultless religion? Why, do you think, does God put such a premium on taking care of orphans? What is the benefit of taking care of orphans?
3. Read Galatians 4:4-7 and Romans 8:14-17. What do these two scriptures say about our relationship to God? To Jesus? Does this serve as a reminder as to why we need to care for orphans? Why?

LIFE APPLICATION

In Matthew 1:18-25, we see how Joseph was given a very difficult situation. He was to be wed to Mary, but she was pregnant with someone else's child. The manner in which he dealt with this very difficult situation speaks volumes about him as a man. Are you doing your part when it comes to orphan care? Are you sponsoring? Mentoring? Fostering or adopting? We all have a part to play. This is God's desire for all of us. You may not be able to open up your home, but are you doing your part so that others can? Do you have resources that can enable a family to better open their home to a child in need? Don't sit idly by and do nothing. Make a concerted effort to be active in orphan care.

GROUP CHALLENGE

Catalyst is a church that celebrates orphan care in a huge way. How can your group encourage, equip, or support a family at Catalyst that is currently fostering or adopting? Would you be willing to take a weekly meeting and put together care packages, organize meals, or purchase Christmas presents for them? This Christmas, Catalyst is, once again, giving Christmas presents to the children of inmates in the Inside/Out Dad program. Consider adopting a family as a community group and provide Christmas for children who may not have Christmas presents this year without your generosity.