

STEP

01:


LET'S START OUR JOURNEY





TODAY'S STEP:

Our journey begins with meeting Isaac, a member of our host family. Isaac will show us how to make a soccer ball the way he does with his friends in Uganda.

- For ideas to adapt this to kids younger than five or older than 12, just look for this symbol  on each card.



TODAY'S BIG IDEA:

Experience how God gives us enough to enjoy and enough to share—by stepping into our host family's shoes and following in Jesus' footsteps.

01: LET'S START OUR JOURNEY

BEFORE YOU BEGIN:

- Get today's videos and a way to play them: "Welcome/Meet the family" and "Make a soccer ball" [See your DVD or stepintomyshoes.org/resources, Step 01].
- Supplies and instructions for making your own soccer balls, found in *Compassion Explorer Magazine*, page 10. You will need:
 - 1 paper sack
 - 1 large garbage bag or 5 plastic grocery bags
 - 36-inches of twine or string
- Take out your Host Family cards and let each person choose which member of the family he or she will "be" for this journey. Read your card out loud.

Say: *In this experience, we are headed to Africa. Some of the children here don't have shoes. So we will join them by taking off our shoes right now. Take off your shoes together.*

We will learn how to see the world in a whole new way, without leaving home. We'll do this by learning from a family who lives very simply and then by seeing how Jesus takes care of people. We're starting in the African nation of Uganda where we'll follow the story of Pastor Tom, his wife Nancy and their 12 children. We'll gather water, have a sleepover and find ideas for other games, crafts and recipes. We'll look for ways we could help children near us or far away.

Let's go ahead and meet Tom and Nancy's family now. As we meet them, look for ways that they are like us and other families we know.



WATCH VIDEO: "WELCOME/MEET THE FAMILY" [06:14]



TALK ABOUT IT

Ask: In what ways are Pastor Tom and his family similar to our family, or to people we know?

What did you see that was different than our family?

What else did you notice in the video?

Say: The last boy you met in the video is 10-year-old Isaac. As you see in the video, Isaac has enough of what he needs. In some of the videos, we'll meet children who do not have enough of what they need.

Ask: What does it mean to have enough?

If someone has all their physical needs—the needs we can see or touch—met, do they have enough? Why or why not?

What are some needs we can see or touch?

What are some needs we cannot see or touch?

Say: Even though kids do need water and food to survive, these are not enough. Children in poverty often feel like no one cares about them. For them, feeling rejected doesn't stop at the end of this activity. It's real, everyday life. Having enough food and water helps, but children also need something else to get out of poverty. They need *hope*.

Say: Pastor Tom's family has seen God provide hope, and they take joy in helping others in their village. So how does hope start? God gives us hope *when we belong to Him and to His family.*

Play is also one of our needs—even for adults. Let's watch how two of Pastor Tom's sons, Isaac and Joshua, make a soccer ball.



WATCH VIDEO: "MAKE A SOCCER BALL" [02:20]

Say: We are going to make our own soccer ball! Every time we play with the soccer ball, we can remember that God wants us to have hope because we belong to God's family. Belonging to God isn't something we can see or touch, but it is something we need.

Learn to make your own soccer balls in *Compassion Explorer Magazine*, page 10. To learn more about how some kids live very simply, see *Explorer* pages 4-6 and 15.



PRAY

Say: "Step into my shoes" is a phrase that means coming to understand someone else's life. Caring about someone else isn't just a nice idea—it is God's idea. Jesus taught us in Matthew 22:36-39 that everything God wants can be said by two things: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind...and love your neighbor as yourself." That will be our focus for this journey, and we can pray that God will show us how to live it out.

CONTINUED ON BACK

As we step into the shoes of our friends in Uganda, we will pray for God to show us how to love our neighbors, near and far. In fact, each time we take our shoes off, we can pray for a child who may still need hope. We can also pray for Pastor Tom and his family.

Gather around your shoes as a family and hold hands as you pray. Take turns each naming one need that all children have in order to become all that God created them to be. If your kids have a hard time starting, you might give an example like food, shelter, or a loving family.

After each person names a need, everyone repeat together:

Say: “Lord, may all children have enough.”

Your kit provides special shoelaces to put on one shoe (or on your wrist or backpack) so every time you look at it, it can remind you to pray. Give an extra shoelace away to a friend. Then both of you can pray that God will show you how to help kids who don't have enough.

To share your journey with other families, visit stepintomyshoes.org/blog, tweet ideas or experiences to #StepIntoMyShoes or visit Facebook and search StepIntoMyShoes.