

# Sample Presentation

Every presentation should have five basic elements: introduction, need, solution, instructions and challenge. The length of your presentation depends on how much you expand on each element. The following outline is geared for a 30- to 50- minute presentation, which would be appropriate for most Sunday school classes, Bible study groups or home fellowship groups.

Your presentation should reflect your thoughts and your style. Feel free to follow this sample closely or simply use it as a basic outline to create your own presentation. In either case, be sure to spend plenty of time practicing your presentation, and don't forget to pray as you prepare.

## Introduction

*Hold a letter from your sponsored child in your hand and begin reading from it when you reach the podium. Then say a few words about your child's struggles. The following two paragraphs are examples of how a portion of a child's letter could be presented and commented on.*

**Quote:** "I thank God for you, dear sponsor. I keep your letters and photographs in a special place and pray for you every day. My aunt is still very sick; she is in bed all the time now. All she does is sleep; she is too weak to stand. My younger sister and brother do not go to school because we do not have the school fees. Thank you for your prayers."

**Explain:** "These words were written by one of my special friends, Nankya, the 13-year-old girl in Uganda whom I sponsor through Compassion International. Nankya has no parents so she lives with her aunt. Her aunt is slowly dying from AIDS. Nankya will soon be the head of her household. Her situation is not rare or unique in the developing world."

## Reveal the Need

**Explain:** "Today, along with hundreds of churches across America, we are participating in Compassion Sunday."

"Let's take a moment to consider the state of children in the world today. More than 1 billion children live in poverty — unable to attend school, constantly exposed to hunger and disease and all too often neglected or abused. And most of all, they lack hope."

"The numbers can be overwhelming, but consider this: Although you can't change the whole world, you can change the world for one child! You and I can do something about problems such as lack of education, malnutrition and preventable diseases. Many of these children have known pain and suffering without ever knowing the One who suffered and died for them. You can make the difference in the life of a child. You can bring him or her hope."

## Show a Video

*If time permits, this would be an appropriate place to present the Compassion Sunday video.*

## Examine Scripture

**Pick two or three verses** from this list or use some favorites of your own that reveal God's love for those in need.

Deuteronomy 24:12-22

James 1:27

2 Corinthians 8:1-5

2 Corinthians 9:6-15

Matthew 25:31-46

1 John 3:16-20

Proverbs 21:13

James 2:1-25

## Offer a Solution

**Say:** "Jesus held children so close to His heart that He said welcoming a little child in His name is the same as welcoming Him (see Mark 9:37). When we reach out to children living in poverty, we reach out to minister to our Lord Himself.

"For more than 55 years, Compassion International has ministered to impoverished children around the world. Compassion partners with evangelical churches in 25 countries to provide for the basic needs of more than 1 million children. Through sponsorship, Compassion links you to an individual child who needs your help. You receive his or her photo and personal story, and you can build a relationship with that child through letters and prayers. Sponsorship can change the life of a child in need. And it helps meet your child's health, educational and social needs. Most important, each child has a chance to hear and respond to the gospel of hope and salvation through Jesus Christ."

Tell your own experience of sponsoring a child with Compassion. Refer back to the child mentioned in the introduction. Be sure to use your sponsored child's name and tell where he or she lives. Let the group see the love and concern you have for your child and also how you and your family have benefited from the relationship. Some things you might include are:

- ***a short excerpt from a letter you received***
- any progress you have seen in your sponsored child
- how the relationship has affected you, your family and your children
- anything else about the relationship that has touched your life

## Compassion's Financial Accountability

**Say:** "Compassion's finances meet the standards of these three watchdog organizations: the Council of Better Business Bureaus, the National Charities Information Bureau and the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability, of which Compassion is a charter member. The American Institute of Philanthropy has consistently given Compassion an 'A' rating. And Compassion has consistently spent more than 80 percent of total expenditures on program activities for children; less than 20 percent is spent on fund raising and administration. I have a financial statement and annual report if you are interested and would like more information."

***You may want to relate your personal confidence in Compassion's financial integrity. This, of course, must be in your own words.***

## Instructions

**Hold up an unsponsored Child Packet and say:** “I have a table set up with packets of information about individual children you can sponsor. Stop by the table in the \_\_\_\_\_ and prayerfully consider signing up. It’s as simple as choosing the child you’d like to sponsor and filling out a simple form.”

***You may also** want to refer to the bulletin inserts if your church is using them. Explain that a child can be sponsored by using the bulletin insert.*

## Challenge

**Say:** “Don’t wait to bring hope to a precious child. I challenge you to join me in sponsoring a child today. Stop by the table in the \_\_\_\_\_ and prayerfully consider signing up. Thank you.”