

## Children Nobody Wants

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1. It is our responsibility to bring any and all children to know Jesus — ours, orphans and others whose parents are not Christian.
  - a. It is parents' responsibility to expose their children to Jesus Christ. The parents *brought* their children to Jesus. But if a child does not have someone in his or her life to talk about Jesus, we should step up to do it!  
**Mark 10:13-16**
  - b. God assigned us the responsibility to care for the orphaned children and to lead them to Jesus too. **James 1:27**
  
2. Pray for children without parents or children who are unwanted.
  - a. Plead the case of the children whose basic needs aren't even being met. Prayer is one of the easiest things we can do for these children in need.  
**Lamentations 2:19**
  - b. Hundreds of thousands of women have abortions every year: unwanted children. In the United States alone, more than 120,000 children are in need of adoption.
  - c. In Jesus' day, and still in many developing countries, women have little or no value. But Jesus saw them as having value. Pray for the equality of girls and women around the world.
  
3. How did Jesus handle the issue of unwanted children? Children held no value in Roman times, but Jesus valued them. **Mark 10:14**
  - a. Imagine being in the arms of Jesus.
  - b. Being valued by someone important, by Jesus Himself, matters immensely to those who do not feel valued by anyone else. **Psalms 27:10**
  
4. We can value children that no one else will.
  - a. We can help to feed them.
  - b. We can give them affection.
  - c. We can offer these children words of encouragement.
  - d. We can bring them to know Jesus — 85 percent of people who accept Jesus Christ do so before the age of 14.
  - e. Be involved in ministry to children — from the children in your own neighborhood to the millions of children on the other side of the planet. Be involved in ministry, programs and projects that affect children; mentor them, help them, and encourage them at every opportunity.
  
5. We, as a Church, are to be Jesus' hands and feet.
  - a. If Jesus stopped to bless the little children in the midst of teaching a multitude, how much more time should we take for them?
  - b. The latitude and longitude of a birth mostly determines whether or not a child will have access to clean water, health care, education, etc. We can help to end that! \*

6. We live in a blessed place, and those who can should be a blessing to others.
  - a. When we serve the “very least of these,” we are serving the Savior Himself and accomplishing what He called us to do. **Matthew 25:40**
  - b. When we make a difference in someone’s life, we are affected also. It changes their lives and ours. It’s one of the great blessings of serving others.
  
7. Pray about it; consider where God can use you in the lives of children. From local ministries to a ministry across the world, there are so many ways to serve.

\* I want to tell you a little bit about Ecuador, the actual country. Ecuador is about the same size as the state of Colorado in the United States of America. Now, here’s the interesting part. While it’s the same size as the state of Colorado, Colorado has about 3 million people that live within it. Ecuador, on the other hand, the same size, has 14 million people that live within that small country. It has a democratic form of government. Its official language is Spanish, and its currency — of all the crazy things — is the United States dollar. Seventeen percent — think about this — 17 percent of the roads in that country are paved. Eighty-three percent of them are unpaved roads. Sixty percent of the children under the age of 5 go to bed hungry every night — 60 percent. And the reason the vast majority in Ecuador aren’t registered in school? It costs too much. You know how much it costs? Twenty dollars a year. Twenty dollars a year!