

compassion explorer®

The Little Fisher Boy

SAMUEL'S CHRISTMAS
IN INDONESIA

Special
Insert!

COUNT DOWN TO CHRISTMAS
WITH FUN ACTIVITIES!

Gratitude
Rocks!

CRAFTS THAT
SHOW THANKS.


Releasing children from poverty
in Jesus' name

[compassion.com/
explorermagazine](http://compassion.com/explorermagazine)

What's Inside?

Hi, Compassion Explorers!

'Tis the season to spend special time thanking God for His blessings and for sending Jesus to us! In this issue find out how one boy in Asia celebrates Christmas. And see how families give thanks together.

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Samuel carries lunches to sell to fishermen.



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Gather Round

How food brings together families all over the world. **PAGE 12**



Special Insert

Uncover 12 daily ideas to celebrate Christmas! **CENTER**



Compassionate Kids

Aid for Ecuador

TOGETHER
WE RAISED
\$555

A Canadian family holds a sale to help earthquake survivors.

When an earthquake struck Ecuador on April 16, 2016, more than 650 people died, including four sponsored children. Thousands of homes and other buildings were destroyed, leaving many families homeless. Compassion and other organizations started helping the survivors right away, handing out supplies to keep them alive. But it takes a lot of money to help so many people.

When Megan, Evan and Nicole — Canadian siblings who sponsor three children in Ecuador — heard about the disaster on the news, they wanted to help. "I felt sad because we have Compassion kids in Ecuador and we didn't know if they were OK or not," says Nicole, 12.

She and her siblings knew there were thousands of earthquake survivors who needed shelter, food, water and supplies to rebuild their homes. So they helped their mom organize a big garage sale and bake sale. They asked neighbors, family and friends to donate items to sell.

On the day of the sale, 10-year-old Evan told customers that any money raised that day would

go to help survivors of the earthquake or of a wildfire in the Canadian province of Alberta. After a busy day selling clothes, toys, books and cookies, the siblings counted the money. The final total was \$555! "It made me happy and excited," says Megan, 7.

The siblings sent half of the money to Compassion Canada, and that money is being used to help earthquake survivors. They sent the other half to the Red Cross to help people affected by the wildfire.

Now Nicole and her siblings are ready to write some important letters: "We're excited to tell our sponsored kids how much money we raised."



Have you done something special to help Compassion-sponsored children? Let us know at CompassionKids@Compassion.com!



Pray for families who lost loved ones when homes like this one collapsed in the earthquake.

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WELCOME TO MY WORLD!

The Little Fisher Boy



See how 11-year-old Samuel celebrates Christmas in his Indonesian village. ▶

▶ **ISLAND LIFE** Eleven-year-old Samuel lives on the island of Java in Indonesia. Most people in his village make money by catching fish and then selling them at markets. But many families don't earn enough money to meet their needs for nutritious food, medicine, clothes, clean water and school supplies.



◀ **COLD LUNCH** Selling fish isn't the only way to earn money in Samuel's village. On Christmas morning, like every morning, Samuel walks past homes on his way to a cafeteria where fishermen eat. He carries baskets filled with packed lunches of rice, noodles and tofu. His parents wake up daily at 2 a.m., even on Christmas, to cook the lunches. Then Samuel and his sister get up at 4 a.m. to help pack the lunches and later sell them.

▶ **GO FISH** After they finish selling lunches, Samuel goes with his dad to fish in a river by their home. The family doesn't earn enough money to buy much food, so they go fishing to catch something to eat. Samuel also gets nutritious meals, health care, tutoring and Bible lessons from Compassion because he is sponsored.





OH, CHRISTMAS TREE

Samuel decorates a plastic Christmas tree. Before he was in Compassion's program, his family could not afford a tree. But Samuel received this one during a Christmas celebration at his Compassion center, where kids learn about Jesus and receive Bibles. The tree adds cheer to the small home where he lives with his parents and sister. His family went to a Christmas Eve church service.



Find the
recipe on
page 8!

INDONESIA



LANGUAGES

Bahasa Indonesia, English, Dutch, local languages

CURRENCY

Rupiah

RELIGIONS

Muslim 87.2%, Christian 9.9%, Hindu 1.7%, other 1.2%

GEOGRAPHY

Fourth-largest country in the world, with 17,000 islands

► FAMILY DINNER

For Christmas dinner, Samuel helps cook one of his favorite meals: nasi goreng. It's rice fried with eggs and spices. After Samuel finishes cooking, he and his family sit down for the Christmas meal together and thank God for their food.



DID YOU
KNOW?

Most people in Indonesia are Muslim and do not celebrate Christmas. Some Christians in Indonesia are treated poorly because of their religion. Imagine how that would make you feel. How can you pray for Christian kids in Indonesia?

→ What Does God Say About ...

Being Thankful?

What do you think of when you hear the word "Ebenezer"? You might picture Ebenezer Scrooge, the character in "A Christmas Carol" who is unkind until some ghostly visitors teach him a few lessons.

But the word is much older than the Charles Dickens story. In the Old Testament, the prophet Samuel named a rock Ebenezer! No, it wasn't his pet rock. Samuel and other Israelites were gathered in a town called Mizpah when they came under attack from a violent group of people called the Philistines. The frightened Israelites asked Samuel to pray for help. Samuel prayed for protection, and God listened. The Israelites defeated the Philistines!

The Bible tells us in 1 Samuel 7:12 what happened next: "Then Samuel took a stone and set it up between Mizpah and Shen. He named it Ebenezer, saying, 'Thus far the Lord has helped us.'" Samuel used the rock to remind his people that God had helped them and to thank their Creator for saving them.

What could you use as your own Ebenezer — an object that will remind you to thank God for helping you? Here are some ideas for remembering to be thankful:

- Think about kids who live in poverty. Many don't have food, clean water, medicine, doctors, clothes or houses. How is your life different from theirs? Remember to pray for them.
- Choose a toy or other object to name Ebenezer. Use it as a reminder to feel thankful even on hard days.
- Paint your own "gratitude rocks" (see page 10).



PRAYER

DEAR JESUS,

Thank you for giving my family a warm home, medicine, clothing, food, water and the chance to go to school. Please bless the children around the world who don't have these things. Help me remember to give thanks for all the blessings in my life.

IN YOUR NAME, AMEN.



NASI GORENG *Makes 4 servings.*

Indonesian kids like Samuel, the boy on page 4, love this meal of fried rice. When families can afford meat, they sometimes cook the rice with shrimp or strips of chicken.

INGREDIENTS

- 1 c. uncooked white rice
- cooking oil
- 3 eggs, beaten
- 1 clove garlic
- 1 small onion, chopped
- salt to taste
- 1 tsp. each ground coriander and ground cumin
- 3 tbsp. soy sauce
- chili bean sauce to taste (optional; found in Asian markets)

DIRECTIONS

- ① Prepare the rice according to package directions and place it in the refrigerator while you do steps 2 and 3.
- ② Coat a large nonstick skillet with a little cooking oil and heat over medium. Pour in the eggs. Cook like an omelet until it begins to set, about 1 minute. Flip it over and cook until fully set, about 30 seconds. Remove the omelet to a cutting board and slice into ½-inch strips.
- ③ Finely chop or mash the garlic and onion [Samuel mashes them up with salt using a mortar and pestle]. Heat 1 tbsp. cooking oil in a large skillet over high heat. Add the garlic, onions and salt and cook until onions are soft, 3 to 5 minutes. Add the coriander and cumin and mix well.
- ④ Add the rice, soy sauce and omelet strips, and cook 3 to 4 minutes more. Divide among four plates or bowls and enjoy.



Samuel adds spicy chili bean sauce to his nasi goreng.

PINEAPPLE BALLS

Makes about 2 dozen.

In Indonesia pineapples grow year-round. Families gathered for celebrations like to serve this fruity dessert, which they call nastar.

INGREDIENTS

- 1 c. softened unsalted butter
- ¼ c. powdered sugar
- 3 egg yolks
- ½ tsp. vanilla extract
- 1¾ c. flour
- ¼ tsp. salt
- 1 c. pineapple jam
- 1 egg, beaten, for a wash

DIRECTIONS

- ① Preheat oven to 325°F. Line two cookie sheets with parchment paper.
- ② With a stand mixer on medium speed, cream the butter and powdered sugar until fluffy. Add the egg yolks, one at a time. Add the vanilla and mix until combined.
- ③ Sift the flour and salt into a separate bowl. Pour it into the egg mixture and mix thoroughly.
- ④ Cover the dough and refrigerate until firm, about 30 minutes.
- ⑤ Roll the dough into 1-inch balls and put them on cookie sheets about 2 inches apart. Make a dent in the middle of each ball and fill each with about ½ tsp. of the pineapple jam. Pinch together the dough edges until the filling is covered. Turn the seam sides down. Brush each ball with egg wash.
- ⑥ Bake until golden and shiny, about 15 to 18 minutes, turning cookie sheets halfway through. Remove to wire racks to cool.



Find more recipes to make with your family at compassion.com/explorermagazine!

LEAF A MESSAGE

Here's a tree with leaves that will remind you to pray. Each day pull off a new leaf and say the prayer on it!

SUPPLIES

- leaf templates*
- scissors
- pen or fine-tip marker
- glue
- hole punch
- 6 or more twigs/thin branches, at least 2 feet long
- 1 vase or jar
- several pieces of string, 3-4 inches long

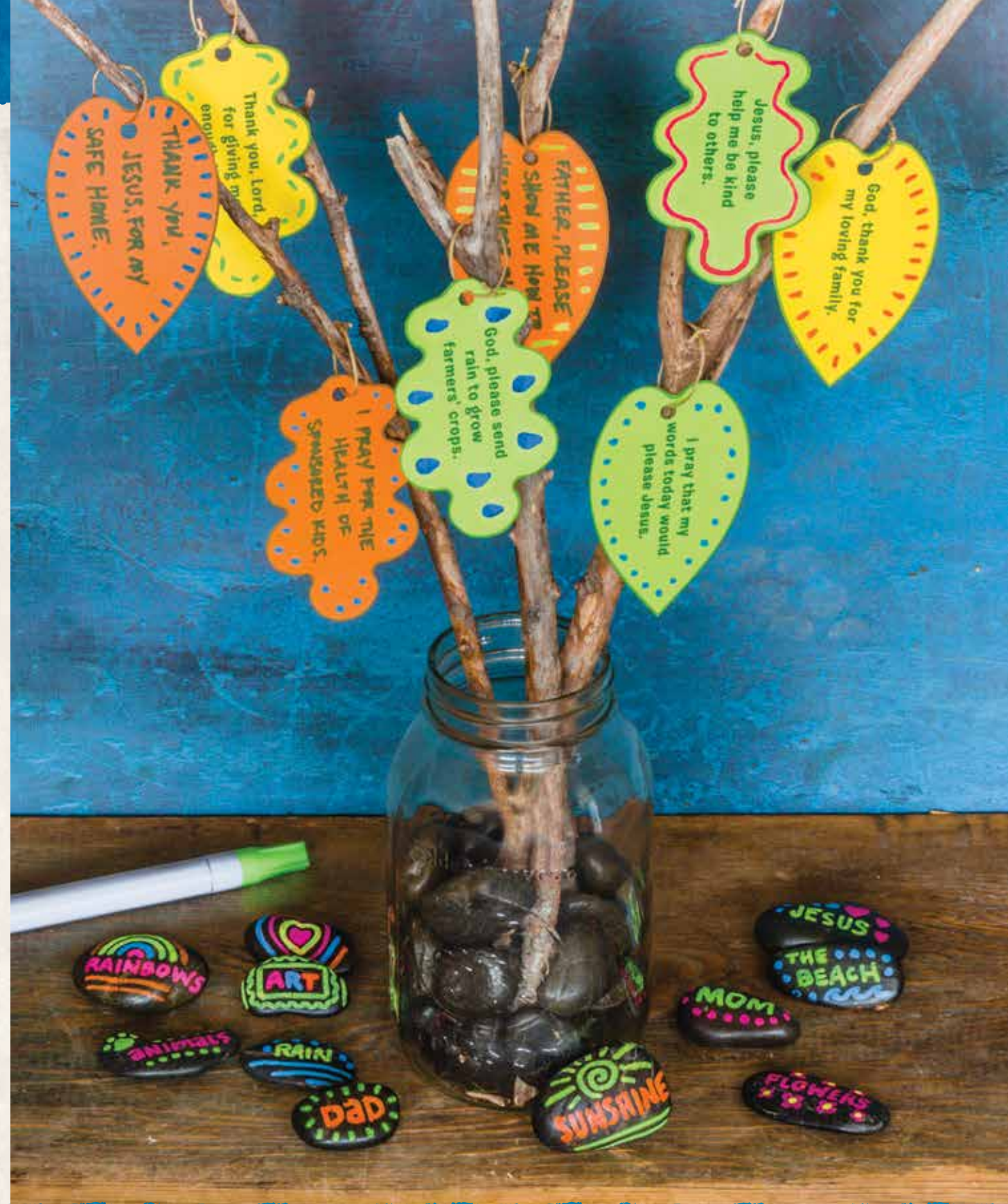
DIRECTIONS

- 1 Print out the sheet of leaves found at compassion.com/exploreonline. Use colorful paper if you have it, or you can color your leaves after printing. Cut out each leaf.
- 2 Some leaves have prayers printed on them, while others are blank. On each blank leaf, write something you want to ask God. You can also draw additional designs or pictures.
- 3 Punch a small hole at each leaf's edge.
- 4 Place the branches inside the vase or jar, which should be tall enough to keep them propped up. If not, add stones or sand to the jar.
- 5 Lace string through the leaves, and then tie them around the branches. Every day you can pull one off and say the prayer!

*Instead of using our leaf template, you can skip the first step and simply cut out your own leaves from colorful construction paper. Then write prayers on them with a marker and follow the rest of the steps.



This boy in the Philippines wears an armband that reminds him to pray.



These girls in Thailand play a game that's like jacks, but they use stones instead.

GRATITUDE ROCKS!

Just like in the story of Samuel in the Old Testament (see page 7), a simple rock can remind you to be thankful. Paint some stones with pictures or words describing what you're grateful for. You can place them in a jar on the table at Thanksgiving or Christmas. You can also hide and search for them like it's an Easter egg hunt!

SUPPLIES

- colorful paint pens (such as Elmer's® Opaque Paint Markers, found at arts and crafts stores)
- smooth, flat rocks

DIRECTIONS

- 1 Go hunting for rocks in your yard. Once you've collected several, rinse them well with water. Lay them out to dry.
- 2 On your first dry rock, write or draw something you are thankful for. Draw some fun designs and patterns. Wait for the first layer of paint to dry before adding any other layers of color.
- 3 Repeat with all your rocks!



Gather ROUND!

As you gather for big family meals on Thanksgiving and Christmas, see how people in developing countries join for food and togetherness.

THAILAND

Seven-year-old Borisut, right, and his family eat breakfast at their home. They grew the food in their garden, which their church helped them plant. They also caught crickets in their garden, and then fried them — a popular snack in Thailand.



FROM THE BIBLE

“For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.”
— Matthew 18:20

GHANA

Emelia, third from right, eats rice and beans with her family. She is sponsored through Compassion.



INDONESIA

Agnes Janu Dwi Widiyanti, a sponsored 11-year-old, joins her parents and grandma at their dinner table. On the table is all the food they have to eat for the whole week, including rice, tofu, fish, vegetables, chili sauce, soup and fruits.



PHILIPPINES

A family prays before eating a meal of rice, noodles and sardines at their temporary shelter. Compassion provided the shelter, made of bamboo and sheets, after a typhoon destroyed the family's home.

KENYA

Rita, right, and her baby, Brian, join loved ones to eat outside their mud home. Compassion helps Rita and Brian because their family doesn't earn enough money to buy food, medicine and other important items.



TOGO

Fellow, right, gathers with his family to enjoy a small meal outside their home. A kitty visitor looks for crumbs. Since Fellow is sponsored, he gets to eat big meals of maize, fish, yams and other nutritious food at his Compassion center!

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

Selamat hari Natal! That's Indonesian for "merry Christmas." Look at these two scenes of Indonesia during a Compassion center's Christmas celebration. Can you find 11 differences between the scenes? We've circled one for you. Answers at compassion.com/exploreonline.

BONUS CHALLENGE!

Can you find the following items hidden in the scenes?



Just for Grins and Giggles

Remember this picture from the summer 2016 *Compassion Explorer Magazine*? Here are some of your great captions!



Graduation day is here, finally! No more school! Oh yeah!

Cailyn, 9
 Lisbon, Iowa

In the eyes of greatness.

Jarrett, 12
 New Orleans

Fa la la la! We are big now!

Hope, 3
 Muncie, Ind.

Look at us! Ethiopia's youngest graduates!

Micah, 10
 Bothell, Wash.

School's out for the summer!

Abby, 7
 Centennial, Colo.

These hats are itchy!

Lydia, 11, and
 Hannah, 7
 Reading, Pa.

How long do we have to stand here?

Aidan, 11
 Dover, Pa.

More captions at compassion.com/explormagazine!



KIDS, CAPTION THIS PHOTO FOR THE NEXT *COMPASSION EXPLORER*!

Send a caption by Dec. 20 to: Compassion International, Attn: *Compassion Explorer Magazine* Editor, 12290 Voyager Parkway, Colorado Springs, CO 80921. Or email it to compassionkids@compassion.com.

A child in Ghana looks inside an empty water bucket. Many families in Ghana don't have running water, so they collect it from rivers and lakes in buckets like this one.



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