

COMPASSION *sunday*®

2020 Presentation Guide



hope for every ONE.

Welcome

to your Compassion Sunday Presentation Guide

Thanks for your desire to help find sponsors for children in poverty.

This booklet will help you plan a great Compassion Sunday and prepare your heart for what God is going to do through you. We're here to support you every step of the way.

Just call us at 888-503-4585 or email us at churches@compassion.com

hope for every ONE.

Dear Child Advocate,

It's hard to put into words how grateful we are that you have chosen to speak up for children living in poverty, especially amid a pandemic — your generosity is so inspiring. Thank you!

You may have noticed that the words “hope for every ONE” are all over this planning guide. Here's why: We believe that hope is what truly releases a child from poverty — the hope of a future, of freedom and of the good news of Jesus Christ. And for that reason, every ONE child living in poverty deserves hope.

But not only does every ONE child need hope, everyone does. Each person who pours into a child's life — their family, their church, their sponsor, you — is in need of the same hope. That has been made abundantly clear this year.

We know that hosting a Compassion Sunday isn't the easiest task. But we firmly believe that when you choose to host, you are providing hope for every ONE and hope for everyone — including yourself. And that's why we want to support you along every step of the journey.

In this booklet, you'll find the ultimate guide to planning a great Compassion Sunday. From an outline to help you prepare your presentation (whether in person or via livestream), to pro tips, to answers to frequently asked questions — we hope you take the time to read it all and find the exact support you need.

Thank you again for believing that all children deserve hope. We can't wait to see the impact you're going to have.

In Christ,
Your friends at Compassion

***“IN THE SAME WAY, LET YOUR LIGHT
SHINE BEFORE OTHERS, THAT THEY
MAY SEE YOUR GOOD DEEDS AND
GLORIFY YOUR FATHER IN HEAVEN.”***

— Matthew 5:16, NIV

We're in this together!

Let's begin by reviewing the steps to host an incredible Compassion Sunday.

Read each one carefully, so that you don't miss anything. If you get stuck at any point, please feel free to reach out to us by calling one of our Compassion Sunday coaches at **888-503-4585**. We'll work together to make this Compassion Sunday happen.

1

Talk to your pastor

The most successful Compassion Sunday events are the ones where the church pastor is completely on board. Here are some helpful tips to get you there:

- **Give your pastor the Pastor's Guide.**

It's a great tool to help him or her understand more about child sponsorship and Compassion Sunday.

- **Get your pastor's permission to host a Compassion Sunday at your church.**

- **Set a date for the event.**

Most people will host their Compassion Sunday event on Sept. 13, but what's most important is that you pick a date that works best for you and your church.



2

Register your event

Once you've talked with your pastor and chosen a date that works, register your event by visiting compassion.com/RegisterNow or calling **888-503-4585**.

3

Plan your presentation

That's what this booklet is all about! Throughout the next 10 pages, you'll find tools to help you prepare exactly what you want to share with your church family. But before that, decide what kind of presentation you want to give.

VIRTUAL

Virtual Event. We have an entire team dedicated to working with you to make your virtual event a success. Simply email us at churches@compassion.com or give us a call at 888-503-4585.

SIMPLE

3- to 5-minute announcement. Share a few personal thoughts, play the video and invite people to sponsor a child in need — it can all happen during announcements!

MOST POPULAR

10- to 12-minute presentation. Your personal sponsorship story, paired with the video, is bound to move people to sponsor a child themselves.

GETS THE MOST KIDS SPONSORED

Full worship service. Fill your Sunday service with Scripture readings about caring for the needy, relevant worship songs, a video, a personal presentation by you and a sermon by your pastor.

We understand that churches are meeting in a variety of ways and we have an entire team dedicated to working with you to make your event a success. If your church is meeting virtually because of the pandemic, or if there is anything at all we can do to support you, simply email us at churches@compassion.com or give us a call at 888-503-4585. We look forward to working with you to customize your event to meet the needs of your church.

Once you've decided on presentation length, start working through this booklet to find tips, facts and inspiration for your presentation!

4

Pray, pray, pray

Remember to pray for Compassion Sunday and the lives that will be changed — both in your church and around the world!



Suggested presentation

Sharing your passion for caring for the poor is powerful. If you know what you'd like to share, that's great! If not, here's a suggested presentation outline to get you started.

I. Introduction

"Hi, my name is (your name). Welcome — it's great to see everyone. Today is Compassion Sunday, and I can't wait to see what God does through us today."

"In a neighborhood in Ecuador, there's a 9-year-old girl named Ketzia. Her parents often don't know if they'll be able to provide food for their family. She is surrounded by children her age who are already addicted to drugs. On top of all of this, the recent pandemic has had a devastating impact in neighborhoods like hers. The United Nations is predicting that this crisis will set the developing world back 10 years. Yes, Ketzia's situation seems hopeless."

"You'll learn more about Ketzia's story later, but what breaks my heart is that there are millions of children around the world living in hopeless situations like hers."

"But I believe that every one of these children deserves hope — the hope of a future, of freedom and of the good news of Jesus Christ."

II. Share why you sponsor

"Let me begin by sharing my story. (Number of years) ago, I began sponsoring a child through Compassion International — an organization dedicated to releasing children from poverty in Jesus' name."

(Show a photo of your sponsored child, if possible.) *"This is (child's name). (He/She) is (age) and lives in (country). I chose to sponsor (him/her) because (your reason). My sponsorship connects (him/her) to a local church where (he/she) receives physical, emotional and spiritual care."*

Pro Tip: Share your sponsorship story! Here's how:

- Share how sponsorship has blessed you. What have you learned?
- Tell about the ways you have seen your sponsored child grow and mature.
- Show letters you have received from your sponsored child.

III. Read from Scripture

"Sponsoring a child has allowed me to answer God's call to care for the poor — and that's another reason why sponsorship is so meaningful to me!"

- Share a favorite verse or Scripture reading that is relevant to your message. See suggestions on Page 9.

IV. Share the video (You can download it at compassion.com/video.)

"Before I close, let's take a few minutes to watch this video to see how truly life-changing sponsorship can be!"

(If you are unable to show the video, simply move on to the next section).

V. Closing thoughts

"For some of us, this has been an incredibly difficult year. We need hope more than ever ..."

"On every Compassion Sunday poster, you'll see the words 'hope for every ONE.' What an incredibly timely message. Every ONE child living in poverty needs extra hope now. And so do we."

"Today, I'd like to invite you to provide that very hope to a child living in poverty. I promise, in the process, you'll receive the gift of hope too."

"This is a great opportunity to live out God's call to care for the poor. As a sponsor, not only will you help support a child's growth and development, but you also will build a relationship with him or her. Through letters, you can remind a child that you love them, that God loves them and that there is hope."

VI. Call to action

"So, if you feel God is calling you to sponsor a child today, please text LOVE to 83393 to sponsor a child today. After the service, feel free to make your way to (insert location)."

"I'll be at a table to help you choose a child to sponsor and answer any questions."

"Thank you, and please be sure to stop by the table after the service."

Personalize your presentation

OK, now's your chance to take a crack at writing your own presentation. Use the suggested presentation (Pages 6–7), as well as the Bible verses and poverty facts below, to craft what you feel led to share. You can even take this very book on stage to guide you through your presentation!

I. Introduction

II. Share why you sponsor

Poverty facts

Worldwide, **385 million** children live in extreme poverty.

Every **2 minutes**, a child dies of malaria, a preventable and treatable disease.

An estimated **61 million** primary school age children worldwide don't attend school.

Around **45%** of deaths of children under 5 are linked to undernutrition.

Globally, **2.1 billion** people don't have safe water at home.

Sources: UNICEF, World Bank and World Health Organization. Figures reflect the most recent data available as of August 2019.

III. Read from Scripture

IV. Share the video (You can download it at compassion.com/video.)

V. Closing thoughts

VI. Call to action

Bible verses

Defend the weak and the fatherless; uphold the cause of the poor and the oppressed.
— Psalm 82:3

Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after the orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.
— James 1:27

And if you spend yourselves on behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness, and your night will become like the noonday.
— Isaiah 58:10

Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. — Proverbs 31:8

Note: All Scripture quotations here are taken from the New International Version.

For more Bible verses and poverty facts, check out compassion.com/FindResources.

Helpful hints

Now that you've decided what you're going to share with your church family, read through these helpful tips for the day of the presentation.

How to present well:

Follow these suggestions to help you speak with confidence on Compassion Sunday!

Practice, practice, practice! The best way to feel confident about your presentation is to rehearse as much as you can. If you're using a PowerPoint presentation, remember to practice with that too!

Pro Tip: Practice your presentation out loud. Ask a friend or family member to sit, listen and give you advice once you're done!

Share your heart. Stories and experiences are so powerful. Don't be afraid to share how much child sponsorship has meant to you.

Pro Tip: Read through the letters you've received from your sponsored child for inspiration.

Breathe, smile and take time while you're speaking. If you're nervous, it's easy to start talking too fast — it happens to the best of us!

Pro Tip: While rehearsing your presentation, smile and take a breath between each sentence. It'll feel funky at first, but it will help train your brain to slow down on the day you present.

Focus on the incredible importance of what you're sharing, not on your own nerves. By hosting a Compassion Sunday, you will help children escape the cycle of poverty!

Pro Tip: The morning before you present, take a few minutes to watch the Compassion Sunday video. Be reminded of the power of sponsorship!

Pray intentionally before the event. Invite God to use you to further his kingdom through Compassion Sunday.

Pro Tip: Read the back of the "Pray Without Ceasing" card to help guide your prayers.

Enhance your presentation

To help your audience connect with your message, consider using these strategies.

Showcase child packets.

Seeing the faces of actual children will help your audience connect with your call. Hold up child packets as you speak, or put a photo of one in your PowerPoint presentation.

Share child letters.

Letters from your sponsored child prove the real connection between sponsors and children. Bring copies of letters you've received from your child. Consider highlighting key sentences and phrases you can read out loud.

Prepare a table.

Make sure that you have a surface to display child packets on the day of the event. A well-decorated table draws people in. After registering your event, you will receive an Event Kit filled with decorations. But it never hurts to add your own personal touches — like flowers or a special tablecloth!

Invite your audience to text to sponsor.

This year we've created an opportunity for your audience members to "text to sponsor!" During your presentation, ask your listeners to text LOVE to 83393. Once they do, they'll receive a text back with the photo and profile of a precious child who needs a sponsor. They'll complete the sponsorship process right on their phone, without having to leave their seat! And if you will be meeting in person, you can still invite them to your sponsorship table after the service!



hope for every ONE.

Be inspired

When you step out in faith and host a Compassion Sunday, a new story unfolds. One where more children are released from poverty in Jesus' name. And that is one of the most beautiful stories in the world.

On the next page, you'll find snippets of those very stories from Compassion Sunday events that happened last year. They are stories of hope, dedication and life change that feature real-life hosts — people just like you.

So, let the beautiful stories of these hosts inspire you! God worked mightily through them, and he will through you too!

JORDYN | Child Advocate

Eleven-year-old Jordyn encouraged the members of her church family to sponsor a child on Compassion Sunday last year — and it worked. A 100-year-old woman in her church became a sponsor for the first time! No matter your age, Compassion Sunday can have an impact on your life.



HAYLEY | Child Advocate

Hayley, a woman who hosted Compassion Sunday in New York, worked with her Compassion Sunday coach to make her event extra special and customized. In her church of 100 people, five children got sponsored!



RAYMOND | Child Advocate

In California, there's an awesome motorcycle group that participated in Compassion Sunday last year. Raymond shared about child sponsorship with the group, and eight children were sponsored between them.



MELISSA | Child Advocate

Melissa hosted a Compassion Sunday at her church last year. The church of 125 people sponsored 21 children! Most members on the worship team and many of the production volunteers sponsored children.

**LEARN TO DO RIGHT; SEEK JUSTICE. DEFEND
THE OPPRESSED. TAKE UP THE CAUSE OF THE
FATHERLESS; PLEAD THE CASE OF THE WIDOW.**

— Isaiah 1:17, NIV



Frequently asked questions

I'm not sure I can get my pastor's OK. What should I do?

We have a dedicated team of church specialists who can talk to your church and pastor on your behalf. You can reach them directly by emailing churches@compassion.com.

When should I host Compassion Sunday at my church?

The official date for Compassion Sunday is Sept. 13. However, we know that day won't work for everyone. So, we encourage you to choose any date that best suits your schedule. Talk to your pastor about what weekend would work best for your church and then register your event.

Can I host a Compassion Sunday outside my church?

While we encourage you to host in your home church, sometimes that's not a possibility. Compassion Sunday can work well in other settings, like Bible studies, small group meetings, Sunday school classes, school classrooms, book clubs or any other group.

What do I do if I have leftover child packets?

If possible, use the Event Kit materials to display the leftover packets at your church after the event. These packets are unique to your church; please do not send them back to Compassion. On the back of each child packet, you will find an expiration date — the child will be assigned to your church until that date. Once the packet expires, you can throw it away. The child will be electronically returned in our system.

What is an Event Kit?

Once you register your event, we'll send you an Event Kit in the mail. The kit has everything you need to run a successful Compassion Sunday at your church. It includes posters, a tabletop display, information sheets, child packets and an instruction guide with a helpful event checklist. Plus, it'll have one of the new Compassion Sunday T-shirts!



How can I communicate that Compassion is a trustworthy organization?

Compassion has more than 1 million alumni around the world whose lives have been changed. They are doctors, pastors, lawyers, government workers and community leaders. Research indicates that sponsorship is a reliable and effective way to help children. But Compassion goes further by working exclusively through local churches to deliver our program. The program cares for children's spiritual and physical needs — all through a local church just like yours. Plus, Compassion submits an annual audit, and sends field auditors to thousands of program sites each year to ensure your funds are used properly and only to release children from poverty in Jesus' name. We are 100% committed to working with local churches — and have over 7,000 evangelical Christian church partners overseas delivering services and ministry to more than 2 million children. For more information, check out compassion.com/financial.

What if my church has limitations on meeting in person due to COVID-19?

We understand that churches are meeting in a variety of ways and we have an entire team dedicated to working with you to make your event a success. Simply email us at churches@compassion.com or give us a call at 888-503-4585. We look forward to working with you to customize your event to meet the needs of your church.

Can the people in my church text to sponsor a child?

Yes! At the end of your presentation, encourage your audience to text LOVE to 83393 to sponsor a child.



***“LET THE LITTLE CHILDREN COME TO ME,
AND DO NOT HINDER THEM, FOR THE
KINGDOM OF GOD BELONGS TO SUCH AS
THESE. TRULY I TELL YOU, ANYONE WHO WILL
NOT RECEIVE THE KINGDOM OF GOD LIKE
A LITTLE CHILD WILL NEVER ENTER IT.”***

— Mark 10:14-16, NIV



COMPASSION INTERNATIONAL
12290 Voyager Parkway, Colorado Springs, CO 80921-3668

compassionsunday.com | 888-503-4585