

STEP

04:

CHOOSE YOUR NEXT STEP





TODAY'S STEP:

We'll go to market with Momma Nancy and decide how we can help a child in need.



TODAY'S BIG IDEA:

We can live from enough by following in Jesus' footsteps to care for those in need.

04: CHOOSE YOUR NEXT STEP

BEFORE YOU BEGIN:

- Invite everyone to take off their shoes as a signal to pray for children in poverty and that God will help us walk in another's shoes.
- From your *Step Into My Shoes™* toolkit, take out the Child Cards, Job Card and Market Cards and lay them on a table. To print more of these cards, go to stepintomyshoes.org/resources, Step 04.
- Grab a handful of dirt from outside and put it in a clear pitcher or glass of water.
- If you can, grab a can of beans and a bag of rice. You don't need to cook them, but you can if you want to do this activity over a meal.
- Get a Bible and today's videos from stepintomyshoes.org/resources, Step 04 or from your DVD: "Find water and food" and "Choose your next step."

Parents, take a Job Card, but don't read it yet. Kids, take a Child Card and read the story of a child who may not yet have enough.

Say: We want to know what life might be like for a family who has to spend the day just finding ways to survive.

Let's think about these things:

- What are some of the things you'd need to survive?
- One of the most important things you'd need is water. We can only live a few days without water. What would you do right now if you had to get water for your family, from outside your home?

- Another important thing you'd need is food. What would you do if you had to find food?

Around the world there are places where children don't have enough clean water or food. Let's see what that can look like.



WATCH VIDEO: "FIND WATER AND FOOD"

[04:34]

Ask: What does this video make you wonder about?

Say: So now it's our turn to get water and food.

Parents, you are "home from work" now. Read your Job Card aloud and share how much your family can spend.

Say: Kids, you will gather enough food and water for today. At the market, every item costs 50 cents. Once you have made your choices for the family, we'll talk about it.

If your family can afford the Market Cards for clean water, beans and rice, serve them. If not, have the kids bring empty plates and glasses of dirty water to your table.



TALK ABOUT IT

Ask: As you look at what you have in front of you, do you have enough? Why or why not?

How does your water look? Would you drink it? What about the food?

If you were this child, and most days were like today, how would that change your hopes and dreams?

CHOOSE YOUR NEXT STEP

As we close our *Step Into My Shoes™* journey, let's look at how we can take one simple step to help children in need—near or far.

Ask: Do you ever have a sense that God wants you to do something? Can you tell a story of when that happened?

Say: We sometimes say that sense is a “calling.” It’s a way to say that we think God has asked us to do something to show His love to others. Sometimes we talk about a calling very generally. There are some things that everyone who loves Jesus is called to do. Let’s reflect on one example of a general calling together. We already looked at this passage during Step 01. It’s so important that we’re going to explore it together again.



READ MATTHEW 22:36-39

Say: Jesus gives two commandments here that apply to everyone who follows Him. What are they?

We are all called to love God and love others. This is a calling we have no matter where we are—at home, school, church, work, even the drive-through and the grocery store.

Ask: When it comes to caring for people in poverty, how can we love God and love others?

Say: At the same time, we also talk about calling specifically, as something that we think God is asking just us, or just our family, or just our

church, to do. Not every Christian is supposed to do that thing at that time, it's a one-of-a-kind task for just a few people.

Ask: Can we think of something that might be a “calling” from God?

How does it feel to think that God might call us to live or act in a specific way sometimes?

Have any of us ever felt that way before?

Say: So how do we know what we are called to do? We can draw closer to people in our family and church while we listen for and live out our calling. We can also look to the Bible to help us understand our calling.

Together as a family, we want to listen for God's call about how we can help people in poverty. Maybe we want to give something up so we can have something extra to give. Maybe we could give away or sell some of our things and use the money for others. We could choose to sponsor a child or help children in our communities. We could pick a date every month, mark it on our calendar and do something that day like write a sponsored child or volunteer with a child in poverty nearby. Or we could come up with a new idea.

Think about those choices as we watch our last video. Afterwards, we're going to brainstorm a next step we can take together to answer God's call to love God and others.



WATCH VIDEO: "CHOOSE YOUR NEXT STEP" [05:02]

Ask: What are ways you can think of for loving children near your home, school, church, or even in Africa?



PRAY

Say: We are going to ask God to show our family how He might be calling us to care for people in poverty. Once we ask, we'll spend a minute or two silently listening before closing our prayer. God may or may not lead us during those couple of minutes. Either way is okay. As we continue praying for children in need whenever we take off our shoes, we can practice listening for God's call.

After you pray, ask: Is there anything in particular you think God is asking our family to do? While we continue to wait and listen for God, is there one step you'd like to take to help people in poverty now?

Write down your family ideas and post them in a central location so you can loop back to them from time to time. Be sure you circle at least one thing that you will do first, and ideally go ahead and set a date on your calendar to do it.

To share your journey with other families, visit stepintomyshoes.org/blog, tweet ideas or experiences to [#StepIntoMyShoes](https://twitter.com/StepIntoMyShoes) or visit Facebook and search [StepIntoMyShoes](https://www.facebook.com/StepIntoMyShoes).



BONUS ACTIVITY:

Got 15 more minutes? We have a hands-on idea to take a next step right now.

Say: Let's take a step to help people in poverty right now. Where do we have enough stuff? What can we give away or even sell? Is there something we can give up to be able to help a child like the kids we've prayed for during this journey?

HOW TO BEGIN: Set a timer for 15 minutes. Grab some large plastic trash bags. Choose a room to start in, like a bedroom, garage, or closet. Start gathering items you would be willing to give. Think about things you have multiples of or don't use often. Meet up when the timer is done.

Ask: Who could use these things?

Can we give away or sell some of our things or give something up to help kids nearby or even sponsor a child in Africa?

What is a date we could mark on our calendar, each month throughout the year, when we could help others by sharing out of our own "enough" from God?

For more ideas on next steps to help others, hike on over to *Compassion Explorer Magazine* page 11!