Outline of Lesson One.

Youth Caring for Youth

Introduction
Today we are beginning a special program called ***Operation Orphan Rescue****. Over the next five weeks, we are going to be looking at what the Bible has to say about caring for orphans.*

Video
"A Generation in Crisis"

Lesson
1. *Why Do We Need Parents? God created Adam and Eve to bear and raise children (Gen 1:27-28a). How many of you have a baby brother or sister? It is hard work to raise children. Parents are God's gift to children—to help them along the path to adulthood.*

2. *Why Do We Have Orphans? God never intended for anyone to be an orphan. Every child was supposed to have both his mother and his father until he was old enough to get married himself (Gen 2:24). But because man sinned, death entered the world (Rom 5:12). So now parents sometimes die before their children are old enough to care for themselves.*

3. *What Is It Like to Be an Orphan? It is pretty rough (Jam 1:27). What do you think would be some of the afflictions or hardships faced by children without parents? (a) Lack of food; (b) lack of clothing; (c) lack of shelter; (d) lack of medical care and hygiene; (e) lack of education; and (f) lack of love and attention.*

Conclusion
So I hope you guys see how much your parents actually do for you. So as we think about orphans over the next few weeks, I hope it makes you thankful for your own parents.

Video
"A Story of Hope"

Challenge
Memorize ten verses and get a t-shirt.

Assignments
1. Thank your parents for all that they do.
2. Memorize Matt 18:14 and Jam 1:27.

Prayer

Look Ahead
Next week we will look at God's heart for orphans and our responsibility as Christians to care for them.

Leaders Notes

Outline of Lesson Two.

Youth Praying for Youth

Introduction
Last week we looked at the worldwide orphan crisis. Today we are going to find out what God thinks about it and how you can get involved. The goal is to get you praying for a real orphan.

Video
"By This We Know Love"

Lesson
1. *God Cares for Orphans. Scripture is filled with references to God's compassion for the poor and needy—nearly 1000 altogether. He values their lives (Matt 18:14); he is merciful to them (Hos 14:3); he hears their cries (Psa 10:17-18); he rescues them (Psa 12:5) and cares for their practical needs (Psa 146:5-9). Scripture says that we should reflect God's character in our lives (Lev 11:44-45; Matt 5:48; 1 John 4:7-8).*

2. *God Commands Us to Care for Orphans. We are to love our neighbor as ourselves (Matt 22:39). The Bible defines love not as a warm feeling, but as sacrificially meeting the needs of another (1 John 3:16-18).*

3. *Caring for Orphans Is a Mark of Genuine Faith. True faith motivates us to act (Jam 2:15-17). True religion is characterized by caring for orphans and widows (Jam 1:27). Job showed his faith in God by the way he treated the poor (Job 29:12-17).*

Conclusion
This whole matter of caring for orphans is very close to God's heart; I hope it is close to your heart as well. As your love for God grows, your love for people will also grow.

Video
"Abandoned in the Dump"

Challenge
Pray for an orphan by name daily.

Assignments
1. Pray for your orphan brother / sister.
2. Memorize Hos 14:3 and 1 John 3:17.

Prayer

Look Ahead
Next week we will introduce an exciting way that you can get involved in rescuing orphans.

Leaders Notes

Outline of Lesson Three.

Youth Sharing With Youth

Introduction
Last week we looked at our responsibility as Christians to care for the practical needs of orphans. Today we are going to talk about what you can actually do to help them.

Video
"Most Precious Gift of All"

Lesson
1. *Show Mercy. It is human nature to take advantage of the weak, but God wants us to be kind (Zech 7:9-10). These orphans get hardened living on the streets, but they warm up when a Christian shows mercy to them. It lifts them out of despair and hopelessness.*

2. *Rescue Orphans. Not only must we be kind to them, but we must take action to rescue them from their plight (Psa 82:3-4). Although you might be too young to be directly involved, we are partnering with organizations that do this on a regular basis. What you can do within your circle, however, is stick up for the weak and powerless at your school.*

3. *Be Generous. God commands his people to give to the poor (Deut 15:11). We should set aside a portion of our income for that purpose (Deut 24:19-21; Luke 12:33-34). Jesus radically identifies with the poorest of his followers (Matt 18:5; 25:31-46). How we treat them is how we treat him.*

Conclusion
As a way to help get some orphans off the streets, our group is going to participate in a fund-raising program that we will come up with and run. We will get practical in being a solution to the world orphan crisis.

Challenge
Hit the streets and save the lives of some orphans.

Assignments
1. Talk to all of your family and friends about Operation Orphan Rescue.
2. Memorize Deut 15:11; Luke 12:33a, 34; and Matt 25:40.

Prayer

Look Ahead
Next week we will talk about evangelism, church planting and missions.

Leaders Notes

Outline of Lesson Four.

Youth Reaching Youth

Introduction
Last week we looked at some practical ways that we can get involved in rescuing orphans. This week we will examine the importance of evangelism and church-planting in a global context.

Video
"Effective World Missions"

Lesson
1. *Reasons We Do Not Evangelize. Why does evangelism make us so uncomfortable? It can be (a) ignorance; (b) fear; or (c) apathy.*

2. *Reasons We Should Evangelize. The stakes are high (Rom 10:14-15). Jesus is the only way to heaven (John 14:6; Acts 4:12). The Bible commands us to evangelize (Matt 28:18-20; 1 Pet 3:15).*

3. *Why Do We Plant Churches? The church is the only institution with which Jesus radically identifies (Eph 4:12; Col 1:18). He has also promised to build it (Matt 16:18).*

4. *What Is Missions? Missions is leaving your familiar surroundings to share the Gospel with someone from another land or culture.*

5. *What Is My Role in Missions? The Great Commission is the responsibility of every Christian, not just a select few (Matt 28:18-20; Acts 1:8). You might be too young now to be a missionary, but you can: (a) support a missionary; (b) do cross-cultural ministry in your own town; or (c) go on a short-term missions trip.*

Conclusion
This is why we only build orphan homes in connection with churches.

Challenge
Remember to get those cards scratched off.

Assignments
1. *Keep on praying for your orphan and raising funds.*
2. *Memorize Psa 68:5, 1 Sam 2:8, and Psa 82:3-4.*

Prayer

Look Ahead
Next week is the big shebang! We are going to celebrate our unity in Christ.

Leaders Notes

Outline of Lesson Five.

Youth Connecting With Youth

Introduction

Last week we looked at the importance of sharing the Gospel and planting churches around the world. This week we are going to celebrate the unity that all believers share in Christ.

Video

"Orphan Baptism"

Lesson

1. *A Common Faith. All believers in Christ have a supernatural unity. The things that often divide people from one another have been taken away in Christ (Gal 3:28; Col 3:11).*
2. *A Common Identity. All believers in Christ have the same spiritual DNA. We become members of one another (Rom 12:4-5) and brothers and sisters in Christ (Matt 23:8).*
3. *Common Experiences. All believers in Christ participate in worship, prayer, Bible study, baptism, communion and fellowship. This is foreign to the people of the world.*
4. *A Common Suffering. All believers in Christ experience suffering (John 16:33; Matt 24:9; 2 Tim 3:12; Heb 10:32-33). This is a privilege (Acts 5:41; Matt 5:11-12).*
5. *A Common Destiny. All believers in Christ are going to the same place (Rev 5:9). Heaven will be a multi-cultural experience!*

Conclusion

These five spiritual realities show that we have more in common with Christian orphans in Cambodia than we do with some of our friends at school.

Video

"Orphans Worship"

Challenge

Do not let the experience of the last five weeks become a distant memory. Keep it alive! Keep on praying for your orphan and find ways to get more orphans off the streets and out of the garbage dumps.

Assignments

There are no assignments for this week.

Prayer

Look Ahead

Next week we will begin a new series on _____.

Leaders Notes