Your Speech

Here's a suggested speech outline we've put together for you. You can use it as it is or as a framework for your own talk. What's most important is that you speak from your heart. It's your passion that will really inspire people to respond.

INTRODUCTION

For those who don't know me my name is [name]. It's great to be here today, thank you for giving me the time to speak about a subject that's close to my heart.

Jesus says in Matthew 19:14, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."

It's a beautiful verse that shows the special place Jesus has in his heart for children, but every time I read it I think of all those millions of children out there who live in extreme poverty, struggling to get some of the basic things that we take for granted like food, healthcare and education.

The thing about poverty is that it not only makes life a physical struggle, it also steals hope. As children are abused, neglected, forgotten and looked down on, they come to believe the lie that their lives don't matter to anyone. But we know that's not true.

INTRODUCE YOUR SPONSORED CHILD

I want to introduce you to someone very special. *(hold up the photograph of your sponsored child.)* This is [name of child] a little [boy/girl] that I sponsor in [country]. *(Share a little bit about the child, their age, where they live and in what conditions)*

It's easy to get overwhelmed when you think of the 400 million children in extreme poverty. Children like [name of child]. As Christians we have a responsibility to look after the poor and specifically to care for children, like Jesus would.

Through Compassion child sponsorship I have found a way to respond. I might not be able to change the world, but I can change the world for one child.

Today is Compassion Sunday and people across the country are speaking out on behalf of the world's poorest children. I am so excited we're taking part this year because I know the transformation that can take place when we reach out to children in need with God's love.

I think this film will show you what I mean. *(Show the film)*

Now, I've been sponsoring [your child(ren)'s name] through Compassion for [number] years.

[Name of child] gets to go to the Compassion project at [his/her] local church every week where loving Christian staff know each child personally. [He/She] receives medical check-ups, education, food, clothing and social support through sponsorship as well as the chance to be a child.

Most important of all, [name of child] has the opportunity to learn about Jesus and see his love demonstrated through the actions of staff and sponsors.

NOTES

Compassion® Releasing children from poverty in Jesus' name

I love the fact that as a sponsor I don't simply send money. I get to encourage and empower [name of child] by writing letters and sharing prayers.

(Share something that's really special about sponsorship to you)

(Share your personal thoughts/feelings. How has this blessed you? What have you learned?)

(How has it impacted your family? Are your kids involved? Has it changed your outlook on life?)

(Maybe show a picture your child has drawn for you.)

(What are your hopes/dreams for the child you sponsor?)

By sponsoring a child, I've been able to put my faith into action and care for children in need.

Today, I invite you to take up the challenge to become a sponsor and release a child from poverty in Jesus' name. Because together, we can change the world, one child at a time.

This is an amazing ministry opportunity for everyone — all of us can enjoy sharing our faith to disciple and empower a child—all in the name of Jesus.

(Hold up a couple of child profiles/show them on the PowerPoint.) Before I go, I just want to introduce you to a couple of children who need your help today. I have [name of child] from [country] and [name of child] from [country]. It would be wonderful if at the end of today's service, these children could have the love and support of a sponsor like you.

I'll be at a table in [give location] where you can choose a specific child and begin your sponsorship experience today.

Thank you.

SPEAKING TIPS

- Speak from the heart, your passion will inspire people
- Practice makes perfect, so rehearse out loud
- Make sure you're comfortable with any equipment you'll be using
- Pray and remember God is in control.

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