

Sermon suggestion

Looking for a sermon to share in your church? Here's a sample sermon you can use that takes approximately 20 minutes.

CHILDREN OF GOD

"I felt I was nothing. I didn't matter. Nobody cared to know my name."

These are the powerful words that Richmond shares in his inspirational tale about the transformational difference of sponsorship. Growing up in the slums of Uganda, Richmond lost his father at a young age and was forced to beg on the street for food. He believed he didn't matter. He believed that no one even cared to know his name.

Imagine that for a moment. How would you feel if no-one cared to know your name?

But there is a Father in Heaven who knows all of our names, who planned all our days before the beginning of time. And God had big plans for Richmond. This child, who would often go for days without food,

was sponsored through Compassion and today runs a ministry that equips pastors across Africa.

So how did he get there? Let's explore a passage in Matthew 18 which shows God's heart for children and why it should matter to us that 385 million of God's children struggle every day to find enough food and clean water to survive.

[Read Matthew 18:1-14]

What an incredible picture of God's heart for children. He calls them the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven and tells His disciples (you and me) that we must become like them, welcome them and not look down on them. We must watch out for them and woe betide anyone who causes them to sin!

Throughout scripture, we see that God has a special place in His heart for children and loves the worship that rises from their hearts.

Psalm 8:2 says, "From the lips of children and infants you have ordained praise."

Matthew 21:15-16 states, "The children were shouting in the temple area,

'Hosanna to the Son of David.' The chief priests and teachers of the law were indignant! 'Do you hear what these children are saying?' 'Yes,' replied Jesus, 'Have you never read *'From the lips of children and infants you have ordained praise.'*"

When it comes to children we have to understand two things:

1. Children are precious to God and He cares for them very much.

Some scriptural examples are:

- In Mark 5:41, Jesus raises a little girl back to life.
- A boy is set free from the power of the devil in Luke 9:42.
- Jesus rebuked His disciples when they tried to stop the children coming to Him in Matthew 19:14, showing that all children belong to God. The Kingdom of Heaven belongs to such as these!

There are nearly two million children in Compassion projects around the world and every one of them is loved by God. But His heart breaks for those that are still trapped in poverty, suffering through all that extreme poverty brings.



