

Compassion Sunday

CONTAINS:

- Tips & Ideas
- Presentation Outlines
- Poverty Facts & Figures
- Suggested Scriptures

**RELEASING
CHILDREN
FROM
POVERTY**

IN JESUS' NAME

THIS COMPASSION SUNDAY


Releasing children from poverty
Compassion[®]
in Jesus' name



Compassion Sunday

“**HIS POWER
AT WORK IN
US CAN DO
FAR MORE
THAN WE DARE ASK OR IMAGINE.”**

EPHESIANS 3:20-21
(CEV)

It's so great to see your desire to help us release more children from poverty in Jesus' name this Compassion Sunday. Thank you for ordering this Planning Guide.

Hundreds of churches across the country will be speaking out on behalf of children who need our care. Together, I know we can transform hundreds, maybe even thousands, of lives in Jesus' name.

This booklet will help you plan and prepare a great Compassion Sunday. We're just a phone call away on 01932 836490, so if you want any further advice or have any questions, please get in touch.

And remember, when we step out in faith, God can do more than we could ever dare to imagine. So have fun planning your event and helping to transform lives in Jesus' name.

God bless you.



Ian Hamilton
Chief Executive Officer
Compassion UK



GETTING STARTED

Getting started is always the hardest part, so we've done all we can to walk you through planning and preparing your event, step-by-step.

1. PRAY



Prayer underpins everything we do here at Compassion, so we really encourage you to commit your plans to God in prayer and be guided by Him.

2. MEET WITH YOUR CHURCH LEADER



Getting the support of your Church Leader is key to the success of your event, so we've produced a special little booklet for you to share with them.

Take this along when you meet with your Church Leader and be prepared to talk about your personal experience of sponsorship and your passion to help more children.

Church Leaders love the fact that we've already produced all the resources, so stress the fact that all they need to do is suggest a date for your presentation and give an endorsement to the work.



Hosting a Compassion Sunday is so valuable.

You are sharing the Gospel. You are sharing with people how to speak hope and healing into the life of a child.”

**QUINNE HOLT,
WALTON-ON-THAMES**



PLANNING

YOUR EVENT

Once you've got the go-ahead, the fun can start! If you can, get friends and other sponsors in your church to help you out. The more help you have on Compassion Sunday the better. It's also great to have a group of people praying over your event in the weeks leading up to it.

1. SET THE DATE

Make sure all the key people at church, and your helpers, know when the event is.

2. KEEP US UPDATED ABOUT YOUR EVENT

Please keep us updated by calling **01932 836490** if any details about your event change including expected audience size, date of event and location.

YOUR EVENT KIT

Roughly 2-3 weeks before your event you'll receive an Event Kit containing posters, Child Profiles and the final instructions for your day.

If you have any questions we're here to help you, please call us on **01932 836490**.



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3. PLAN YOUR PRESENTATION

However long you have to present Compassion, remember to share from your heart and if possible, show the Compassion film.

FULL WORSHIP SERVICE

Use the sermon guide, prayers and music selections that can be found at **www.compassionuk.org/compassionsunday** alongside the planning guide and short film. To make your presentation more visual, you can also use the PowerPoint too.

10–12 MINUTE PRESENTATION

Use the presentation outline and Compassion film adding more information about your own sponsorship, to bring it to life. To make your presentation more visual use the PowerPoint too.

5–8 MINUTES

Use the presentation outline and show the short Compassion film.

OTHER RESOURCES

You can broaden the reach of Compassion Sunday to include the children and young people in your church by using the resources online at **www.compassionuk.org/compassionsunday**.



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4. ARRANGE THE LOGISTICS

It might seem obvious, but if you're using audio-visual equipment get in touch with the person responsible to make sure they know what you need and that everything works.

You'll also need to arrange for a table in a prominent position where you can display all the Compassion information.

5. PROMOTE YOUR EVENT

Get people excited about Compassion Sunday in the weeks leading up to your event with a little bit of promotion. Put up posters in church, include a 'save the date' in your notice sheet and share your event through your church newsletter, e-mail and social media.





SUGGESTED COPY FOR YOUR NEWSLETTER

Compassion Sunday
is coming!

Join us on {date} at {time}
in {venue} to learn more
about God's heart for the
poor and how you can
release a child from
poverty in Jesus' name
with Compassion.

To find out more contact
[your details] or visit
www.compassionuk.org



SUGGESTED PRESENTATION

This outline will give you an idea of how you can shape your Compassion Sunday presentation. Feel free to use it word-for-word, or adapt it to suit your style and the time you have available. What's most important is that you speak personally and if at all possible, show the Compassion film.



1. INTRODUCTION

'Welcome – It's great to see everyone. My name is [name]. Before I start 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]

[He\She] is one of the millions of children who live in abject poverty, struggling to get some of the basic things that we take for granted like food, healthcare and an education.

But poverty is about much more than just lacking things. Poverty can steal a child's hope and teaches them that they don't matter. Poverty prevents precious children from being all that God intended them to be.

It's easy to get overwhelmed by the extent of poverty when you consider that half the world's children live in poverty, 67 million primary school-aged children aren't in education and 19,000 die each day from poverty-related causes. It often feels like there's nothing we can do.

As Christians, God calls us to love the poor like he does and through Compassion child sponsorship I have found a way to respond.

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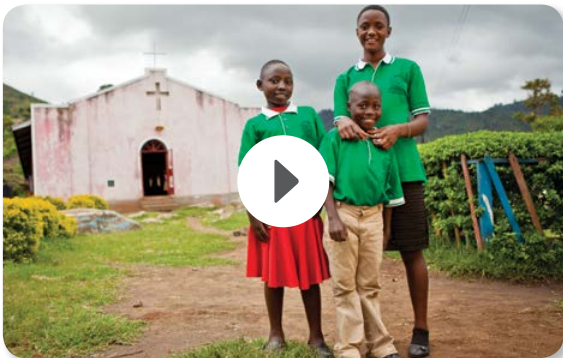
We might not be able to solve all the world's problems, but we can all help one child.

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

I just want to show you a short film that really shows how we as individuals can change the life of a child forever.

2. SHOW THE VIDEO

[If you are unable to show the video, simply move onto the next section.]





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3. YOUR EXPERIENCE AS A SPONSOR

This video has special meaning to me because I've been sponsoring [your child(ren)'s name] through Compassion for [number] years.

- ⦿ Share your personal thoughts/feelings. How has this blessed you? What have you learned?
- ⦿ How has it impacted your family? Your faith? How has it changed you?
- ⦿ Show a picture your child has drawn for you.
- ⦿ What are your hopes/dreams for the child you sponsor?

4. BIBLICAL THOUGHTS

Sponsoring a child has helped me respond to the many scriptures about reaching out to care for the poor.

- ⦿ Share a favourite verse or scripture reading. See suggestions on page 18.

Today, I believe there is a little boy or girl whose life you can transform in Jesus' name. I want to invite you to sponsor a child of your own. There

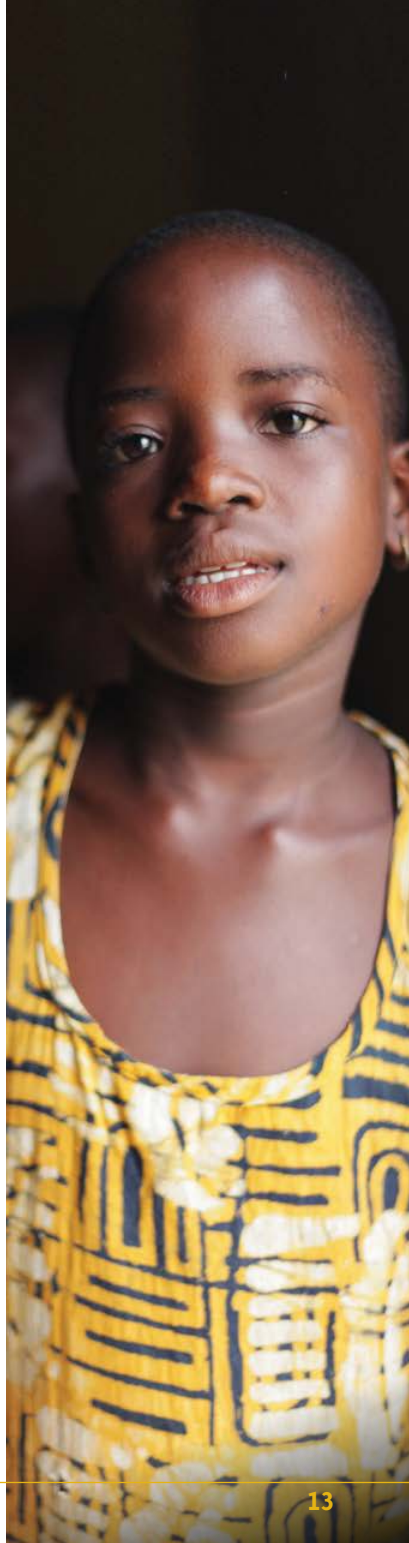
are so many children who need someone's love, prayers, letters and support to help them shape a different and more hopeful future.

This is a great ministry opportunity for young people, older people, single people, families with kids—virtually all of us can enjoy sharing our faith and helping someone who is so very vulnerable—all in the name of Jesus.

Here's how Compassion's sponsorship programme works:

- ⦿ Each sponsored child is linked to a loving local church where they participate in project activities under the care of Christian staff.
- ⦿ Staff know each child personally and ensure they have access to annual medical check ups, education, food, clothing and social support.
- ⦿ Most important of all, the child you sponsor will learn about Jesus and see his love demonstrated through the actions of staff and sponsors.

As a sponsor you have a special role to play in encouraging your child. As you give your support, share prayers, letters, birthday and Christmas gifts you will be showing a child in need that you are there for them. You'll be showing them that they matter.





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5. CALL TO ACTION AND CLOSING THOUGHT

If you feel that God is calling you to help a child in need then I'd be delighted to speak to you after the service.

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

[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 one of these children have the love and support of a sponsor like you.

[Share any final thoughts as God leads you.]

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

SPEAKING TIPS

- ⦿ Speak from the heart using your own experience and words.
 - ⦿ Rehearse out loud with all the equipment you plan on using.
 - ⦿ Pause, smile and take your time before speaking.
 - ⦿ Concentrate on the importance of your message, not yourself.
 - ⦿ Pray and know that we're simply called to speak up for the poor – God's in control of the outcome.
-



DON'T FORGET TO

- ⦿ Speak from your heart—your passion will come through and really inspire people.
- ⦿ Have plenty of pens.
- ⦿ If anyone has any tricky questions, use the FAQs on page 20–21 or have them call us directly on **01932 836490**.



WHAT TO DO ON COMPASSION SUNDAY

ARRIVE EARLY

It's always best to be prepared and arrive early on Compassion Sunday to make sure everything is set up.

TEST YOUR EQUIPMENT

Even if you've tested it before, double check that any microphones, films or PowerPoint presentations work.

SET THE SIGN UP TABLE OUT

The location and layout of your sign up table is key to your event, so take time to get this just right.

- ⦿ Position the table in an area where people can easily see it and get to it.
 - ⦿ Use a tablecloth to make it look neat and tidy.
 - ⦿ Spread the Child Profiles so people can easily see the beautiful faces of the precious children we're trying to help.
 - ⦿ Place pens around the table for people to use when signing up.
 - ⦿ Go straight to the table after your event to help people sign up to sponsor children.
 - ⦿ Be familiar with the child profiles so you can help people to sponsor quickly.
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WHAT TO DO AFTER COMPASSION SUNDAY

LEAVE THE TABLE UP

Give your congregation lots of time to sign up and sponsor by leaving the table up for the weeks that follow your presentation.

MAKE ANNOUNCEMENTS IN CHURCH

Ask your Church Leader to remind people about sponsoring children in the weeks after your event. Use your church newsletter, website, and social media to remind people that it's not too late to sponsor.

REMIND PEOPLE TO SEND THEIR FORMS IN

Keep reminding people to hand you any outstanding sponsorship forms. Use the Freepost envelope provided to get everything back to us as soon as possible.

BE ENCOURAGED!

By taking part in Compassion Sunday, you've been faithful to God's call to speak up for the poor. It's God who works in people's hearts and prompts them to respond. You may never know the full impact of your presentation, but God does.



BIBLE VERSES

These verses will help you prepare for Compassion Sunday. You can use them as part of your presentation or as inspiration to encourage you. There are more online at compassionuk.org/compassionsunday.

“For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me...”

MATTHEW 25:35–36 (NIV)

“My whole being will exclaim, ‘who is like you, O LORD? You rescue the poor from those too strong for them, the poor and needy from those who rob them.’”

PSALM 35:10 (NIV)

“Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute.”

PROVERBS 31:8 (NIV)

“Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.”

LUKE 18:16 (NIV)

“Do not take advantage of the widow or the fatherless. If you do and they cry out to me, I will certainly hear their cry.”

EXODUS 22:22–23 (NIV)

“Sing to the LORD! Give praise to the LORD! He rescues the life of the needy from the hands of the wicked.”

JEREMIAH 20:13 (NIV)

“And if anyone gives even a cup of water to one of these little ones because he is my disciple, I tell you the truth, he will certainly not lose his reward.”

MATTHEW 10:42 (NIV)

“He will defend the afflicted among the people and save the children of the needy; he will crush the oppressor.”

PSALM 72:4 (NIV)

“Have I not wept for those in trouble? Has not my soul grieved for the poor?”

JOB 30:25 (NIV)

“This poor man called, and the LORD heard him; he saved him out of all his troubles.”

PSALM 34:6 (NIV)

“Defend the cause of the weak and fatherless; maintain the rights of the poor and oppressed.”

PSALM 82:3 (NIV)



POVERTY FACTS

- ⦿ **1 billion** children (nearly half of all the world's children) live in poverty.
- ⦿ **400 million** children live in extreme poverty.
- ⦿ Roughly every **30 seconds** a child dies of malaria, a preventable and treatable disease.
- ⦿ An estimated **67 million** primary-school-aged children worldwide don't attend school.
- ⦿ **19,000 children** die each day due to conditions of poverty.
- ⦿ Each day, **10,000 newborns** in developing countries die within a month of birth.
- ⦿ There are **1.1 billion people** in developing countries without access to clean water.

Sources include UNICEF and the World Bank



ALL ABOUT COMPASSION

WHO ARE COMPASSION?

Compassion is a Christian child development and child advocacy ministry. For more than 60 years, Compassion has been partnering with local churches in developing countries to release children from poverty in Jesus' name.

HOW MANY CHILDREN DOES COMPASSION SUPPORT?

More than 1.6 million children are currently enrolled in Compassion programmes worldwide.

WHERE DOES COMPASSION WORK?

Compassion works in 26 developing countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

WHAT IS COMPASSION CHILD SPONSORSHIP?

Compassion links children from desperately poor backgrounds with a loving local church and a caring sponsor. Each church-based programme supports children in four key areas of development: physical, spiritual, social and emotional. Every child has an individual sponsor who provides personal encouragement and support through their letters and prayers.



DOES SPONSORSHIP WORK?

Compassion is the only child sponsorship charity that has independent research confirming the effectiveness of its programme. For more information, visit www.compassionuk.org/research

HOW MUCH DOES SPONSORSHIP COST?

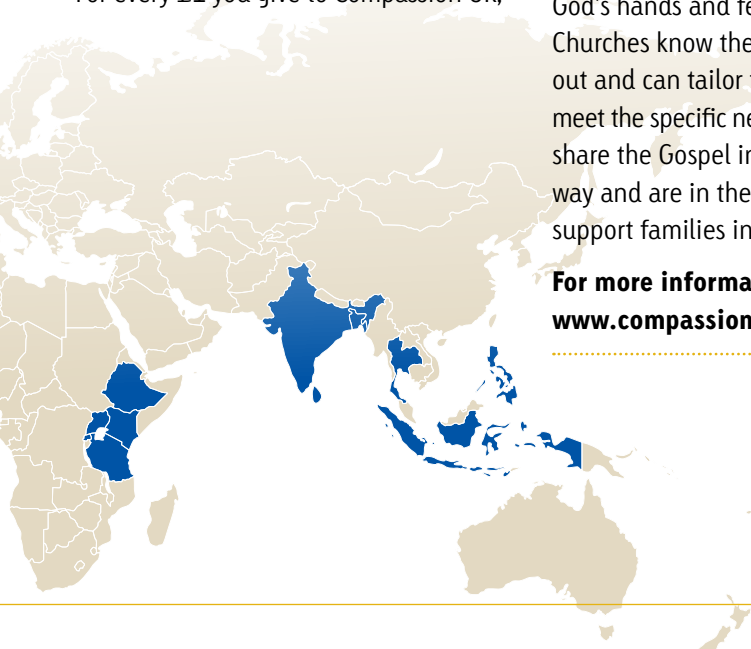
It costs £25 a month to sponsor a child. For every £1 you give to Compassion UK,

80p goes directly to your sponsored child, 9p is spent on facilitating your relationship, 1p is spent on governance and 10p goes towards getting the next child sponsored. To see Compassion's latest annual report visit www.compassionuk.org/financial-integrity

WHY DOES COMPASSION ONLY WORK THROUGH THE CHURCH?

Compassion believes the local church is God's hands and feet in the world. Churches know their communities inside out and can tailor their programmes to meet the specific needs of their community, share the Gospel in a culturally sensitive way and are in the best position to support families in the long-term.

For more information visit
www.compassionuk.org





The best part of Compassion Sunday is that I know this is going to be good for a father, a mother and their children. To me something that has a profound effect on a family is great.”

KIRK McATEAR,
CONNECT CHURCH BIRMINGHAM

OTHER WAYS YOU CAN USE YOUR COMPASSION SUNDAY PACK

MAKE COMPASSION SUNDAY INTO A CELEBRATION SUNDAY

If your congregation already sponsor a number of children, that’s amazing! Even current sponsors need some encouragement though, so it’s always great to remind them just how vital their support is with a Celebration Sunday.

Ask sponsors to bring the photos of their children with them and get them involved in the service by sharing their experiences, praying specifically for the children and encouraging them with the new film.

HOST A COFFEE MORNING OR TEA PARTY

Invite friends over for an informal coffee morning or tea party. Chat to people about sponsorship and have Child Profiles and Compassion leaflets available for those who are interested. If you know other sponsors in church, get them involved too – you can never have too many cakes!

SPEAK TO THE TODDLER GROUPS

Take your Compassion stand to the toddler group at your church. If possible, take a few moments to chat to carers about the challenges of raising children in the developing world and how sponsorship is a great way to help. It's also a great way to give children a more global perspective.

www.compassionexplorers.org

VISIT HOME GROUPS

Arrange to visit the home groups in your church, sharing the film and your short presentation. Home group leaders will probably be glad of the break, so don't be shy to ask! Remember to take with you your Child Profiles and encourage people to ask questions.



DO SOMETHING
EXTRAORDINARY

Let God use you to release
more children from poverty
in Jesus' name.

Compassion Sunday



www.compassionuk.org/compassionsunday

COMPASSION UK CHRISTIAN CHILD DEVELOPMENT

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