

# Seven ways any ordinary person could love orphans

MATTHEW TIETJE | NOVEMBER 6, 2017

**Pure and genuine religion in the sight of God the Father means caring for orphans and widows in their distress... James 1:27 (NLT).**

Right off the bat, Jesus' little brother James reminds us that we are a people called to defend the fatherless and to care for the child who has no family. Orphan Sunday is a way to remind ourselves of that calling. This year's Orphan Sunday is November 12, and The Wesleyan Church has identified the day as a special emphasis that is worthy of denomination-wide observance. How can you live up to this call? Here are seven simple ways every believer can start:

## 1. Build an adoption culture

It's the "Intangibles" that make for a culture of welcome and hospitality. People of every age can become family — moms and dads, grandpas and grandmas, brothers and sisters — to adopted and fostered children. Create a culture of adoption by loving on your family in Christ!

## 2. Become wrap-around supports

Practical aid from the church community can be hugely helpful—and encouraging!—to foster and adoptive families. Consider household chores and yard work, shopping, or babysitting so mom and dad can go out on a date! If your church doesn't have an organized ministry, don't be put off. Find out what families need and do it! Ultimately, you may want to create a formal "Foster/Adoption Support Ministry" with a few others.

## 3. Start mentoring

A consistent, caring adult presence can make a profound difference for any child, especially one who has bounced from home to home in foster care. Young adults who are aging out of care also greatly need caring older friends and a place to spend the holidays. Many communities have mentoring programs, and groups like The Mentoring Project or the Christian Association of Youth Mentors can help churches establish their own.

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## 4. Use those skills

You have a skill that you've perfected over the years. Put that skill to use! From haircuts to orthodontics to car repair, you can use your skills to give a gift of love to a foster child, home or adoptive family.

## 5. Donate your birthday

Rather than gifts, ask your family and friends to give to fund a trusted adoption or foster organization, nearby or globally. Funds help fuel the mission. You can find a list of trustworthy organizations by visiting Christian Alliance for Orphans.

## 6. Plan a service emphasis

Contact a local group home or connect with a foster family in your community. Ask what you can do to serve. Plan a church work day or a donation drive to bless that family or group. Make it a celebration!

## 7. Be an advocate for Orphan Sunday

Help your church join in the worldwide celebration of God's love for orphans. Cast the vision showing that ordinary people can make a difference. Any church can participate—from a showing a short video or prayer for orphans during a church service, to a foster care "Heart Gallery" in the foyer, to a community-wide concert. You can find event ideas, free resources and more on the Christian Alliance for Orphans website.

## November 19, 2017

FOCUS Wesleyan Church

"The Grace of Gratitude"

1 Thessalonians 5:12-28

## Sermon Notes:

### I. The Negative Approach

A. Paul did not thank God for the possession of \_\_\_\_\_ abundance.

B. Paul did not thank God for an \_\_\_\_\_; instead, he had a "thorn".

C. Paul did not thank God for any superior \_\_\_\_\_ among others. (Philippians 3:4-8)

## II. The positive Approach

1. Daily \_\_\_\_\_ (Acts 27:35)

2. People of \_\_\_\_\_ (Romans 1:8)

3. Deliverance from \_\_\_\_\_ (2 Cor. 2:14)

4. Deliverance from the \_\_\_\_\_ of temptation (Romans 7:24-25)

5. Memory of \_\_\_\_\_ (Phil 1:3)

6. Kindness in \_\_\_\_\_ (Acts 28:15)

7. The unspeakable/indescribable \_\_\_\_\_ (2 Corinthians 9:15)

**Reflection:** What is one new thing you believe God spoke to you today as a result of worshipping at FOCUS?

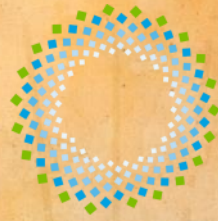
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The Word of God directs us as we consider what the *next step* is for our lives. What is your next step? What can you apply from Paul's life to increase your gratitude to God?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Challenge:** This week I will pray for following friend(s) or family member(s) who do not know Jesus as their Savior:

\_\_\_\_\_



# FOCUS

WESLEYAN CHURCH

## **Communion at FOCUS**

Every Sunday at FOCUS we celebrate the Lord's Table, also known as Communion. We have open communion which means all are invited to receive. We receive communion elements by intinction. Tearing off a small piece of the loaf of bread, dipping it in the communion glass of juice, and then consuming it immediately. Please note, upon your request, we also have gluten free elements for those with gluten and other major food allergies.

## **Wednesday Night Meal**

The next Wednesday night meal has been planned for November 29, 5:30 - 6:30 PM. We are going to be having breakfast for dinner. You have been invited to come and share a meal and fellowship with us.

## **November is National Adoption Month**

Consider visiting Promise Kids a Future website at to learn how you can be involved:  
**[promisekidsafuture.org](http://promisekidsafuture.org)**

## **Youth Group tonight! - 6:30 - 8 PM!**

Friends welcome, snacks provided!

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*Welcome*

THANK YOU FOR JOINING US