

week four: PROVIDING LOVE FOR CHILDREN

READ	PRAY	LEARN	GIVE	DO	GO
<p>“Then Jesus looked at those seated in a circle around him and said, ‘Here are my mother and my brothers! Whoever does God’s will is my brother and sister and mother.’” (Mark 3:34-35)</p> <p>Add a dime every day this week for each person in your household who recites it correctly.</p>	<p>Recognizing that there are many ways in which children are separated from their parents, pray for those whose parents are incarcerated, that they may find peace and comfort in Jesus and the people around them. Also, pray for all those throughout our city who have opened their homes by adopting or taking in foster youth. Pray for the youth as they adjust to their new family.</p>	<p>It is estimated that 140 million children worldwide are orphans (UNICEF).</p> <p>California and Texas have the highest number of children in public foster care waiting for adoption (U.S. Department of State). In San Diego County alone, approximately 6,500 youth are part of the foster care system. After age 18, 50% of foster children are unemployed, 33% require public assistance, and 25% are incarcerated (SDSU).</p> <p>81.5 million Americans have thought about adoption. If just 1 in 500 of these adults adopted, every waiting child would have a permanent family (Dave Thomas Foundation).</p>	<p>Who do you consider family? Choose two or three of these people and mail them a special note for Christmas.</p> <p>Add whatever you pay for postage to the jar this week.</p>	<p>Remember children and families in crisis this Christmas. Go to: tinyurl.com/j4edcy8 to find a shopping list for Crisis Care Kits, and put some together with your family or a group of friends. See how many you can assemble by the end of your favorite Christmas movie or album!</p> <p>Bring kits to church office or Hub by January 8.</p>	<p>Voices for Children provides a CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate) to advocate for and speak up on a foster child’s behalf in their court cases. With the support of a CASA, foster children are more likely to succeed, receive vital services, and find a safe, permanent home.</p> <p>For more information, contact one of our members, Annette Jones (annettejones@pointloma.edu) or visit: speakupnow.org.</p>

AT THE END OF ADVENT:

- **REFLECT:** How is God leading you as a result of your participation in these activities & prayers throughout Advent
- **SHARE:** Gather any funds collected this past month & bring to the church service with you on **Sunday, January 8, 2017** to give in a collective offering to: Voices for Children, Generate Hope, Nazarene Compassionate Ministries’ Child Sponsorship Program, & Key Ministry.
- **SERVE:** Connect with the organizations we’ve supported this month to see how you can join in their work!

