



A Haystack Prayer Meeting Resource for Children Grades 1-5 #3

Children Reaching Out to Others

Missionaries of care of care and concern

Chantel and her best friend Edgar were rolling down a grassy hill at the park on a sunny afternoon. Out of the blue, Edgar said, “Hey Chantel, I’m getting a sister!”

Now Chantel had excellent hearing but still she asked Edgar to repeat what he had said. She knew Edgar’s parents and they both were older than her Dad. She didn’t think they could be having a baby.

After Edgar repeated himself, Chantel demanded, “Explain yourself, Edgar.”

Edgar said, “It’s kind of complicated.”

“Try me,” Chantel said.

“A few weeks ago, when you were away, a lady came to church and talked to the church school. She told us about these kids in China whose parents had died of AIDS. They live in a poor place, no TVs, nothing, and now they are orphans. She asked us to think about sponsoring them.” Edgar finished his account and looked at Chantel shyly.

“What’s sponsor mean?” Chantel demanded.

Edgar replied, “It means we give a certain amount of money every month to pay for food, clothes, a place to live, that kind of stuff.”

“So let me guess, the church school is adopting one of these kids.” Chantel was partly right.

“Chantel, there’s more to it. This lady also spoke in the church service and my folks thought they should sponsor a child to go with the one the church was sponsoring. In the end six families agreed to sponsor a child.” Edgar finished and waited for a response from Chantel.

Wow, Edgar, that is really cool. Can anyone sponsor a child?” Chantel asked.

“I think anyone can be a sponsor,” Edgar answered. “And there are kids from all over the world who need sponsors. Maybe you and your Dad could sponsor a child from India or Africa.”

Chantel was really interested in this project. She asked Edgar, “Can you ever meet your sister? Do you know anything about her?”

Edgar had paid close attention when the lady had spoken. He told Chantel his family would get a letter with a picture of his sister. Maybe once or twice a year she would be able to send them a letter. They could write her as well.

Chantel was very good in math. She asked, “Edgar how much will this cost? Since she’s your sister I think you should have to help pay, don’t you?”

Edgar replied proudly, “I’ve already worked it out with my parents. I will do extra chores and some other things to help. Plus I’m going to start saving my money for the big plan.”

“What’s that?,” inquired Chantel. Edgar said, “I’m saving up to go to China to visit her. I figure by the time I’m in high school I will have enough money. Won’t she be surprised to see me?!”

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Jesus said, “Love one another.” We show love by our acts of kindness and in other ways. Two hundred years ago a group of college students, while praying next to a haystack, were called by God to go into the world and share the story of Jesus with those they met. They were commissioned and sent by the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, a predecessor body to Global Ministries. Since that time thousands of missionaries have been sent out into the world to share God’s love with other people. Sometimes people are called to serve a long way from home and other times it is right next door. Today we show God’s love many ways including through the **Child Sponsorship Program of Global Ministries**. (See www.globalministries.org for more information.)

Possible Questions for discussion by the youth:

- 1) Why do churches and individuals sponsor children through the Child Sponsorship Program? Does your church currently sponsor a child through Global Ministries?
- 2) What are some ways the youth of your church could raise funds to help sponsor a child?
- 3) What part of the world would you like you like your sponsored child be from?