



# Orphans and Widows

SUNDAY

“Pure and undefiled religion before God the Father is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself unstained from the world.”

JAMES 1:27, CSB

# What Your Family Can Do to Stand for Orphans

BY ASHLEY NEWELL

“Mom, can we *please* do a lemonade stand today?” begged the kids. They had been wanting to do one for a long time. So I reluctantly agreed to do a stand that hot day in May, 2015.

While we were sitting there doing our lemonade stand, ideas began to pop up, one by one. One child commented that they wanted to give the money we raised that day to Lifeline Children’s Services, the domestic and international ministry that reaches out to vulnerable children through adoption, orphan care, foster care, and the gospel. It’s also where my husband, Herbie, serves as president and executive director. Wheels started turning, and ideas were being blurted out fast and furiously.

Later that day when Herbie got home, we bombarded him with all our ideas. That night Stand for Orphans was made official.

## ENGAGING OUR CHILDREN IN ORPHAN CARE

As a family, we have spent many hours in orphanages around the world. Seeing the orphan with my own eyes most definitely spurs me to do something for them. It took the simple idea of selling lemonade to bring to fruition what had been stirring in my heart for years—a means of engaging children here at home to do something tangibly to help children around the world.

There are 153 million orphans worldwide that need our help. God commands us in James 1:27 to care for the orphan and the widow. While adoption is certainly one way to care for the orphan, the reality is that less than half of 1% of all orphans will actually be adopted. Consequently, that leaves millions of precious image-bearers languishing in orphanages around the world. While you may not have room at the table in your home to make another orphan a son or a daughter, we can all do something to care for the fatherless. Visit [standfororphans.org](http://standfororphans.org) to learn more.



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