



60 Ideas for Celebrating Orphan Sunday

General Church Ministry

- Preach a sermon on “God’s heart for the fatherless”
- Invite a Lifeline speaker to preach, speak in your service, or share with your small groups (lifelinechild.org/speakers-bureau)
- Set out information tables hosted by Lifeline and other orphan care ministries
- Support Orphan Sunday activities/events from the pulpit
- Show Lifeline’s Orphan Sunday video during service
- Promote and host a “Next Steps” meeting after your Orphan Sunday service to provide ways for people to plug into orphan care ministry
- Launch foster care and adoption support ministry (lifelinechild.org/fostering-hope)
- Launch a Families Count™ ministry to support vulnerable families in your community (lifelinechild.org/families-count)
- Host a picnic for foster and adoptive families
- Recognize foster and adoptive families in your Orphan Sunday service and pray over them
- Reach out to local foster/adoptive parent associations or groups to invite those foster and adoptive families who are unchurched
- Honor foster and adoptive families with a small gift of appreciation
- Invite a family to tell their foster or adoption story from the pulpit
- Host orphans visiting from other countries
- Invite your local “Heart Gallery” to show in your church’s foyer
- Collect a love offering to support orphan care
- Have a special “Blessing Night” or “Parents Night Out” for adoptive/foster families
- Have adoption dedications/baptisms on Orphan Sunday
- Add adoption/orphan care/foster care web links to your website
- Host an adoption/foster care seminar, webinar or Information Meeting. Visit lifelinechild.org/adoption-information-meetings for more details
- Provide thank you notes and gift cards to local social workers
- Make an inspirational book of short stories about foster care/adoption experiences written by your church families

Marriage Ministry

- Sponsor a shoe or vitamin drive for orphans
- Consider becoming foster or adoptive parents
- Sponsor an orphan in another country
- Host an open house for prospective families on behalf of a local foster care agency
- Become a respite provider for foster parents
- Encourage and support young people who are aging out of the foster care system



Singles' Ministry

- Be a mentor to a foster youth
- Sponsor a child in another country
- Volunteer to support a foster family in your church by babysitting, providing transportation, tutoring, etc.
- Provide a meal to a family who is caring for an orphan in your church or community
- Sponsor a children's book drive and give the books as gifts to adoptive/foster families
- Volunteer to help lead Orphan Sunday activities at your church

Student Ministries

- Utilize the Lifeline Orphan Sunday Lesson for students
- Launch a group Heartwork project (heartwork.tv)
- Volunteer for a day to be a "helper" to a foster family in your church
- Have a bake sale, car wash or other event to raise money and awareness for the needs of orphans (standfororphans.org)

Children's Ministries

- Utilize the Lifeline Orphan Sunday Lesson for kids
- Include Lifeline's Mission Kid as a part of your weekly programming or next VBS (missionkid.org)
- Host a Stand for Orphans® (standfororphans.org)
- Decorate birthday cards for children in foster care

Small Groups

- Utilize the Lifeline Orphan Sunday Lesson for adults
- Dedicate one night to a study on the fatherless
- Share "The Orphan's Table" (an orphan meal and prayer experience)
- Volunteer as a group to serve foster families in your community
- Gather birthday and/or Christmas gifts and deliver them to your local Child Protective Services Agency

Prayer Ministry

- Commit to pray for foster children and orphans around the world
- Arrange a prayer vigil at your church
- Provide Lifeline's orphan care prayer guide to families at your church
- After the service, hand out prayer requests for foster children and orphans around the world
- Pray for foster and adoptive families in your church and community
- Pray for biological families who are working toward welcoming their children back home
- Pray for local social workers by name
- Pray for children who are waiting to be adopted by utilizing Lifeline's waiting children prayer cards
- Reach out to your local Child Protective Services Agency to get the names of children in foster care waiting to be adopted, and pray that God would provide them a family
- Pray for young people who are aging out of the foster care system

Worship Ministry

- Select congregational songs that have a focus on God's heart for the orphan and relationship to us as Father
- Incorporate instruments from another country in your worship time
- Lead a night of worship for orphans around the world

