



PORRIDGE AND MOVIE NIGHT

for Youth Groups

**Serve porridge, the food eaten by many orphans,
and show an orphan-themed movie
followed by group discussion.**



(Common porridge meal)



Items Needed for this Activity:

Porridge flour & hot water; Paper goods: plates/cups/bowls/spoons/napkins; Pizza money; Handouts for Discussion (page 4); Rented movie; DVD projection equipment.

Recipe for Porridge:

Porridge is often made with maize flour. Maize flour can be purchased at many international grocery stores. To prepare, mix flour in a large pot with hot water, boil and serve. Add nothing else. If maize flour is not available, a common substitute would be a preparation of “grits” made with hominy flour.

Pizza Delivery (optional):

After youth experience the hunger of a porridge-only meal before the movie, arrange for pizza delivery at the conclusion of the movie.

Sample letter for pizza donation:

Dear Pizza Vendor,

Our Youth Group is taking part in national recognition of Orphan Sunday. We will be holding a special event on _____, at _____ (name of church)

The purpose of this event is to inspire youth in our community to take action to support the 15 million parentless children around the world.

We will be showing an educational movie and discussing ways that our youth can serve orphaned children. We would appreciate any donation or discount you could provide for the food for this event.

Sincerely,

Youth Leader

Telephone number

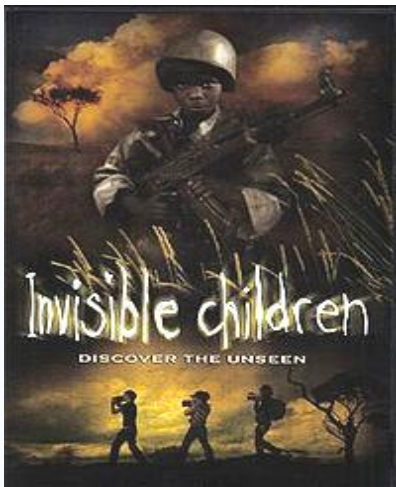
Rent a Recommended Movie:

“Dear Francis”



“Dear Francis” puts a face to the AIDS pandemic as it chronicles the personal stories of two strangers and the Swazis they befriend. Lance and Kelly, two Texas college students with high ideals, great hopes, and a bit of naiveté embark on a most unconventional AIDS prevention program to Swaziland high schools. Through these relationships, they discover that the causes of this plague are much more disturbing and complex than they could have ever imagined. 65 minutes

“Invisible Children”



In the spring of 2003, three young filmmakers traveled to Africa in search of a story. What started out as a filmmaking adventure transformed into much more when these boys from Southern California discovered a tragedy that disgusted and inspired them. After returning to the States, they created the documentary film that exposes the tragic realities of northern Uganda’s night commuters and child soldiers. 52 minutes

“The Children of Leningradsky”



Nominated for an Academy Award® for Best Documentary, Short Subject, this takes an unblinking look at the reality of homeless children living in Russia today - in particular the ones who live in the Leningradsky train station in Moscow. Utilizing footage of over a dozen children who speak candidly about their lives, routines and lost dreams, the film captures the sobering reality of kids who are booted out of their homes, turn into prostitutes, are abused, and run away. 35 minutes

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS



1. Many orphaned children around the world do not have adequate nutrition and must eat simple meals like porridge, only once or twice a day. How did it make you feel to think this was all you would have to eat?
2. Have you ever thought about what it would be like to live life as an orphan?
3. How do you think you would cope if you lost both of your parents and had to learn how to survive?
4. What do you think is the greatest challenge facing a child that is orphaned?
5. What was the most surprising thing you learned from this movie?
6. What do you think these scriptures tell us about how God feels about orphaned children?
 - a. Do not take advantage of a widow or an orphan. If you do and they cry out to me, I will certainly hear their cry. Exodus 22:22-23
 - b. Do not mistreat or do violence to the stranger, the orphan, or the widow; and do not shed innocent blood in this place. Jeremiah 22:3
 - c. Learn to do good; seek justice, reprove the ruthless, defend the orphan, plead for the widow. Isaiah 1:17.
 - d. Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world. James 1:27
7. What can you do to help an orphan here or in another country?



My commitment to help an orphan is: