

## Doing the Word, Caring for Orphans James 1:16-27

### Introduction

Bart Ehrman – “If God wrote a book, wouldn’t you want to read it?”

- It’s that kind of religious hypocrisy that James is addressing – “Do not deceive yourself” he keeps saying (1:16, 26).
- If God really wrote a book, then you should not only want to read it – you should want to do it!

When it comes to orphan care, we’re not talk about this subject because it’s cool and hip, but because it’s *biblical*.

- It’s part of basic Christian discipleship – which involves living life under God’s Word.

Many of you know that we have five adopted kids, and you get a lot of questions when you tell people this.

- Why? Do you have some complex? Was it infertility?
- Do you want my kids?

**We were motivated by theology, not biology.**

- Brief Testimony
  - First, it’s **challenging work**.... My wife says she never struggled with cussing until she became a mother! .... Orphan care is warfare! Gladiator theme song
  - It’s a **joyful, unpredictable adventure**. ...

Let me put you at ease: This **sermon is not designed to guilt you into adopting kids!**

- My goal is to study this text of Scripture, and to challenge all of us to be **doers of the Word – which includes caring for orphans in some way.**

I have three simple points: (1) Value the Word, (2) Receive the Word, (3) Do the Word....

### #1: Value the Word (1:16-18)

James highlights the goodness of the Father in general, and His goodness expressed in giving us spiritual life through the Word in particular.

#### A. Our Good Father (1:16-17)

**V 16:** A transitional verse. “Don’t be deceived..” – God is not evil, but good. He isn’t tempting you to do evil (13-15), but the source of all good gifts (17).

**V 17:** This verse highlights what we often call God’s “common grace” – God’s general goodness displayed in the world.

“**the Father of lights,**” is unique to James. But the image of heavenly bodies points to God’s creative power and **care over the world**. (cf. Job 38:4–15, 19–21, 31–33; Ps. 136:4–9; Isa. 40:22, 26)

- “He makes it rain on the just and the unjust.” (Matt 5:45)
- **Even the most evil men in the world get to experience something of the goodness of God.**
- He is always good. He does not change like heavenly bodies change.
- Our Father is sovereign, and He is good.
- Psalm 145:9

#### B. His Life-Giving Word (18)

George Mueller, who cared for thousands of orphans, preached this text at his wife's funeral: "You are good and do good..." (Ps 119:68).

It's interesting how many verses in **Psalm 119** (a Psalm about the nature of Scripture) emphasizes the fact that God is good. His goodness/love is tied to His giving us His Word!

- "The earth is full of your steadfast love; teach me your statutes!" (119:68)
- The reading/hearing of God's Word is an expression of His goodness.
- He's a good, good, Father. He talks to His kids.

In His grace, He brings us to life through the word – "by His own will, he brought us forth by the Word of truth...." (18)

**So we move from the common grace of God (17) to the saving grace of God (18).**

James may be echoing "the Jewish morning prayer, a prayer that moves directly from acknowledging God as creator of the heavenly lights to God as redeemer of his people" (Moo)

- **"Of his own will"** – God chose to do this by His grace.
- **"Brought forth"** – new life (cf., 1 Pet 1:23)
- **"Word of truth"** – The instrument by which we're brought to life. (2 Cor. 6:7; Eph. 1:13; Col. 1:5; 2 Tim. 2:15).
  - Why are you guys all about the Bible? Here's why.
- **"firstfruits"** – a typical way to talk about Christians in the NT (2 Thess. 2:13; Rev. 14:4; and also Rom. 16:5; 1 Cor. 16:15). We experience a foretaste now of this great salvation that will one day encompass all of creation.
- **Illustration of being brought to life through the Word.**

## **#2: Receive the Word (1:19-21)**

**Here James contrast heart attitudes: madness vs. meekness.**

### ***Hasty speech and anger do not please God (19-20)***

The word will be the focus of vv. 21–27, but before he goes there, James interjects addressees sinful behaviors related to speech and anger in verses 19-20. He will address this subject later in the letter (1:26 and chapter 3).

But he may intend to introduce it here to also contrast it with the **type of heart** one needs to properly receive God's Word: a humble and repentant heart .

### ***Cleansing (20)***

- **Put away a filthy garment, and put on new clothes. A clean heart.**

### ***Receive with Meekness the implanted word (21)***

- **Allow the Word that you have received to influence every aspect of your life.**
- **Psalm 95** – Everyday Psalm – "Do not harden your hearts"
- **The secret to being a good student of the Scripture is **humility**.**

### ***Growing (21b)***

- **"Save" – in a comprehensive sense. We are saved; being saved, and will one day be saved. Justification, sanctification, glorification.**

**Wilberforce & Mueller: Two Men who received the Word humbly and changed the world.**

## **Wilberforce, 5'3, at one time 76 lbs.! Fought slavery for 46 years!**

At age twenty-five he was converted, and then considered leaving Parliament for vocational ministry. Wilberforce eventually surrendered to this noble calling saying, "God Almighty has set before me two Great Objects: the suppression of the Slave Trade and the Reformation of Manners." By the "reformation of manners" he meant attacking other social problems of his day, including child labor and sex trafficking. At one point, he was linked with sixty-nine separate groups dedicated to social reform.

Metaxes: "He gave up his life for the sake of African slaves, people who could give him nothing in return. But Wilberforce knew that what God had given up for him was far greater, so he did what he did for the Africans he would never meet, and for God."

While men today work religiously at gyms, and look impressive on the outside, we lack Wilberforces. The world needs contemporary examples of men who defend the weak.

- Men are often *abusive* or *passive*. Both of these problems are products of living in a fallen world.
- When sin entered the world, God told Adam that he would be tempted to either dominate or be passive.
- As a result, men are often known for being *bullies* or *cowards*.
- Injustice exists because men often abuse the weak, or never defend the weak.

## **What made the difference for Wilberforce? Other than his conversion and his prayer life, it was a love for the Scriptures.**

He loved the Scripture so much that he memorized passages, including Psalm 119, which has 176 verses! He would sometimes walk two and a half miles from Parliament to his house. The last part of the walk took him through Hyde Park, which is where he would often recite this long Psalm. Wilberforce knew that if he started reciting it when he entered the park, then he would finish (in twenty minutes) when he got home. Picture this extremely busy man reciting Psalm 119 walking through the park. See the relationship between meditating on Scripture and changing the world through courageous justice work.

**George Mueller.** Eccentric pastor in Bristol in 1800's. "fifty years after Mr. Mueller began his work, at least 100,000 orphans were cared for in England alone."

## **I have shared his priority of mediating on the Scripture before:**

- "I saw more clearly than ever, that the first great and primary business to which I ought to attend every day was, to have my soul happy in the Lord."
- Age 71: "It is absolutely needful in order that happiness in the Lord may continue, that the Scriptures be regularly read. These are God's appointed means for the nourishment of the inner man. . . . Consider it, and ponder over it. . . . Especially we should read regularly through the Scriptures, consecutively, and not pick out here and there a chapter. If we do, we remain spiritual dwarfs. I tell you so affectionately. For the first four years after my conversion I made no progress, because I neglected the Bible. But when I regularly read on through the whole with reference to my own heart and soul, I directly made progress. Then my peace and joy continued more and more. Now I have been doing this for 47 years. I have read through the whole Bible about 100 times and I always find it fresh when I begin again. Thus my peace and joy have increased more and more."

## **#3: Do the Word (1:22-27)**

### **A. The Difference between Knowing/Hearing and Doing (22)**

**Don't deceive yourself! Spiritual maturity is not about what you know; it's about how you live your life.**

- "Travel Channel is for people who watch TV not for people who actually travel."

## **Douglas Moo:**

The idea of “deceive” in these contexts is clear: to be “deceived” is to be blinded to the reality of one’s true religious state. People can think that they are right with God when they really are not. And so it is for those people who “hear” the word—regular church attenders, seminary students, and even seminary professors—but do not “do” it. They are mistaken in thinking that they are truly right with God. For God’s word cannot be divided into parts. If one wants the benefits of its saving power, one must also embrace it as a guide for life. The person who fails to do the word, James therefore suggests (in an anticipation of his argument in 2:14–26), is a person who has not truly accepted God’s word at all.

- The purpose is to do it!
- **Illustration: My Kids chores, Greek word for vacuum**

## **B. It’s Intended to Change You (23-25)**

### **23: Scripture is like a mirror to our souls**

- Everyone is consumed with a mirror, we need the Bible more than we need a mirror.
- The Bible tells us more about ourselves!

### **23: Look intently**

- Study it

### **24: Make changes – toilet paper on head... different color socks**

### **25: Nature of the Word**

- It’s **perfect** – reflects God. It’s perfectly suited to instruct us
- It gives **liberty** – “you shall know the truth and the truth shall set you free”
  - It shows us the gospel.

### **25b: Blessed in your *doing* – not your knowing/studying.**

**Many are charmed by the Word,  
but not changed by the Word.**

The purpose of the Scripture is to change you!

We need to conform the whole of our life to the whole of the Bible.

This is the “information age” but not “the application age.”

## **C. Three Ways Do the Word (26:27)**

These verses are like the Table of Contents to the book.

### **A. A Controlled Tongue (26)**

- Matthew 12:34 – your words tell the truth about your heart
- James 3:9
- A good word related to social media!!! And the political season!

### **B. A Compassionate Ministry (27)**

- More on this in a bit

### **C. A Clean Life (27)**

- James 4:1-11

Notice that James puts these two together: **purity and the poor.**

Typically:

- Conservatives – purity
- Liberals – poor
- James puts them together.
- Jesus put them together!
- There are many churches that are all about holiness (talk much about sin and accountability groups, etc), but have never lifted a finger for the poor. That’s unacceptable. And there are liberal Christians, who have rejected a biblical understanding of holiness, but are all about social justice. That’s unacceptable too.
- We need to be a people who pursue holiness (not legalism) and social justice as faithful Christians.
- We must repent of both the sin of **omission** (the conservative types who do nothing for the poor), and the sin of **commission** (tolerating that which is clearly a violation of Scripture).

If you follow James’ pattern, you will look weird. But that’s okay. Better to look weird than to deceive yourself spiritually.

### **A Compassionate Ministry**

**Before God, the Father** – this father who is compassionate; who is the “Father of the Fatherless” – Reflect him!

God “**visited**” His people when they were childless, breadless, and crushed under Egyptian oppression.

- Sarah was barren – God visited her (Gen 21:1)
- Ruth – God visited them when no bread (Ruth 1:6)
- Luke 7:16 – God has visited his people
- Psalm 68:5

**Visiting orphans means care and involvement.**

### **Why Orphan Care? 3 Reasons/Motivations.**

#### **#1: To Obey the Word.**

This is our text today.

- There is an avalanche of texts about caring for the orphan!
- That’s why James could make such a comprehensive statement.
- He had the whole OT behind him!

One of God’s titles, “**Father to the fatherless.**” The Father of Lights is the Father to the fatherless.

- **God receives this name, like some people receive nicknames**
- It reflects His character and nature.
- It’s an appropriate in light of the number of texts that highlight God’s compassion and care for the orphan.

**In the Old Testament**

The trio of the vulnerable – the orphan, widow, and sojourner – receive special attention in the Old Testament. My friend, Rick, calls them, “**running buddies**” because you often see them mentioned together.

Please notice three charts with three designations: (1) common problems of orphans, (2) God’s concern for orphans, and (3) God’s commands to care for orphans.

**Common Problems:** They were social misfits without basic necessities.

Common Problems of Orphans	Biblical References
Being Kidnapped and Sold	<i>(There are those who snatch the fatherless child from the breast, and they take a pledge against the poor). (Job 24:9)</i>
Helplessness	<i>because I delivered the poor who cried for help, and the fatherless who had none to help him. (Job 29:12)</i>
Hunger and Abandonment	<i>If I have withheld anything that the poor desired, or have caused the eyes of the widow to fail, or have eaten my morsel alone, and the fatherless has not eaten of it (for from my youth the fatherless grew up with me as with a father, and from my mother’s womb I guided the widow) . (Job 31:16-17)</i>
Losing Land Rights	<i>Do not move an ancient landmark or enter the fields of the fatherless, (Prov 23:10)</i>
Losing Livestock	<i>They drive away the donkey of the fatherless; they take the widow’s ox for a pledge. (Job 24:3)</i>
Victims of Violence	<i>You have sent widows away empty, and the arms of the fatherless were crushed. (Job 22:9)</i>
Treated as Property for which Others Gamble	<i>You would even cast lots over the fatherless, and bargain over your friend. (Job 6:27)</i>
Victims of Injustice and Abuse	<i>Your princes are rebels and companions of thieves. Everyone loves a bribe and runs after gifts. They do not bring justice to the fatherless, and the widow’s cause does not come to them. (Isa1:23) Woe to those who decree iniquitous decrees, and the writers who keep writing oppression, to turn aside the needy from justice and to rob the poor of my people of their right that widows may be their spoil, and that they may make the fatherless their prey! (Isa 10:1-2)</i>
Being Murdered	<i>They kill the widow and the sojourner, and murder the fatherless; (Ps 94:6)</i>
Not Represented in Court	<i>if I have raised my hand against the fatherless, because I saw my help in the gate, then let my shoulder blade fall from my shoulder, and let my arm be broken from its socket (Job 31:21-22)</i>
Begging for Food and Losing their Homes	<i>May his children be fatherless and his wife a widow! May his children wander about and beg, seeking food far from the ruins they inhabit! (Ps 109:9-10)</i>

These same problems continue today. The fatherless are still subjects of **abuse and exploitation**.

Yet we won’t hear them today because they won’t make the evening news.

**God’s concern for the orphan**

God’s Concern for Orphans	Biblical References
God Hears Their Cry	<i>If you do mistreat them [orphans and widows], and they cry out to me, I will surely hear their cry, (Ex 22:23)</i>
God Defends and Provides for Orphans	<i>He [God] executes justice for the fatherless and the widow, and loves the sojourner, giving him food and clothing. (Deut 10:18)</i>
God is Entitled “Father to the Fatherless”	<i>Father of the fatherless and protector of widows is God in his holy habitation. God settles the solitary in a home. (Psalm 68:5-6a)</i>
God Knows the Orphan’s Condition and Will Execute Judgment on Oppressors	<i>But you do see, for you note mischief and vexation, that you may take it into your hands; to you the helpless commits himself; you have been the helper of the fatherless ... you will incline your ear to do justice to the fatherless and the oppressed, so that man who is of the earth may strike terror no more. (Ps 10:14, 17b-18)</i>
God Sustains the Orphan	<i>The Lord watches over the sojourners; he upholds the widow and the fatherless, but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin. (Ps 146:9)</i>
God Welcomes the Orphan	<i>For my father and my mother have forsaken me, but the LORD will take me in. (Ps 27:10)</i>
God Shows Mercy to the Orphan	<i>Assyria shall not save us; we will not ride on horses; and we will say no more, ‘Our God,’ to the work of our hands. In you the orphan finds mercy.” (Hos 14:3)</i>

**God’s commands to care for orphans**

God had a plan to care for orphans, and that plan was *His people acting justly and mercifully*.

God’s Commands to Care for Orphans	Biblical References
Don’t Take Advantage of Orphans.	<i>You shall not mistreat any widow or fatherless child. (Ex 22:22)</i>
Give Justice to Orphans.	<i>You shall not pervert the justice due to the sojourner, or to the fatherless, or take a widow’s garment in pledge, but you shall remember that you were a slave in Egypt and the LORD your God redeemed you from there; therefore I command you to do this. (Deut 24:17-18) Give justice to the weak and the fatherless; maintain the right of the afflicted and the destitute. Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked. (Ps 82:3-4)</i>

	<i>Learn to do good; seek justice, correct oppression; bring justice to the fatherless, plead the widow's cause. (Isa 1:17-18) ... do not oppress the widow, the fatherless, the sojourner, or the poor, and let none of you devise evil against another in your heart. (Zech 7:10)</i>
Feed the Orphan from the Third Year's Tithe.	<i>At the end of every three years you shall bring out all the tithe of your produce in the same year and lay it up within your towns. And the Levite, because he has no portion or inheritance with you, and the sojourner, the fatherless, and the widow, who are within your towns, shall come and eat and be filled, that the Lord your God may bless you in all the work of your hands that you do. (Deut 26:12-13)</i>
Provide for the Orphan from the Sheaves Left in the Fields.	<i>"When you reap your harvest in your field and forget a sheaf in the field, you shall not go back to get it. It shall be for the sojourner, the fatherless, and the widow, that the LORD your God may bless you in all the work of your hands. (Deut 24:19)</i>
Provide for the Orphan with the Fruit Left on the Trees and Vines.	<i>When you beat your olive trees, you shall not go over them again. It shall be for the sojourner, the fatherless, and the widow. When you gather the grapes of your vineyard, you shall not strip it afterward. It shall be for the sojourner, the fatherless, and the widow. (Deut 24:20-21)</i>
Include Orphans in the Celebrations of the Worshipping Community.	<i>Then you shall keep the Feast of Weeks to the LORD your God with the tribute of a freewill offering from your hand, which you shall give as the LORD your God blesses you. And you shall rejoice before the LORD your God, you and your son and your daughter, your male servant and your female servant, the Levite who is within your towns, the sojourner, the fatherless, and the widow who are among you, at the place that the LORD your God will choose, to make his name dwell there. You shall remember that you were a slave in Egypt; and you shall be careful to observe these statutes. "You shall keep the Feast of Booths seven days, when you have gathered in the produce from your threshing floor and your winepress. You shall rejoice in your feast, you and your son and your daughter, your male servant and your female servant, the Levite, the sojourner, the fatherless, and the widow who are within your towns. (Deut 16:10-14)</i>
Know that Condemnation Awaits Those who Oppress Orphans.	<i>Cursed be anyone who perverts the justice due to the sojourner, the fatherless, and the widow. (Deut 27:19) "Then I will draw near to you for judgment. I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired worker in his wages, the widow and the fatherless, against those who thrust aside the sojourner, and do not fear me, says the LORD of hosts. (Mal 3:5)</i>

## In the New Testament

Sometimes it's asserted that the New Testament doesn't give much attention to orphan care but we must remember that **God's character hasn't changed!**

Further, **the New Testament writers often look back at the Old Testament to base moral and social exhortations *for the church.***

Keller: "Just as Israel was to be a 'community of justice,' so the church is to reflect these same concerns for the poor."

## Aristides to Emperor Hadrian, 125

*Falsehood is not found among them; and they love one another, and from widows they do not turn away their esteem; and they deliver the orphan from him who treats him harshly.*

## #2: Because God Visited Us in Our Affliction

### John 14:18

<sup>18</sup> "I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you."

### Galatians 4:4-7

<sup>4</sup> But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, <sup>5</sup> to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. <sup>6</sup> And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" <sup>7</sup> So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

- **There are no natural born children in the kingdom of God.**
- **If anyone is a Christian it is because of God's adopting love.**
- **The church is a family of adopted brothers and sisters.**
- **God didn't adopt us because of our attractive merits, but because of his amazing mercy.**

**Eph 1:5 (you've been adopted) and Eph 5:1 (imitate God as beloved children) go together.**

- **Reflect the adopting love of God to a world in need.**

- Certainly, not everyone is called to adopt, and not every child is available for adoption; but every believer is called to imitate God.

The gospel teaches us that we **identify** with the orphan, widow, stranger, and therefore, we should be the people who have the greatest sense of compassion for them.

- We **aren't superior** to the poor; **we are the poor!**
- We **aren't superior** to the blind; we're blind!
- We **aren't superior** to the lame; we're the lame!
- We **don't deserve to sit at his Table**, but here we are!
- **The proper response to grace is grace**
- Those who truly understand grace, serve, give, sacrifice, love – with joy.
- They live a life of generosity and compassion and justice.

James calls us to reflect the nature of our redeeming God by aiding orphans **“in their affliction.”** And the *affliction* exists.

- **Some of the coldest and darkest places I've ever been are orphanages.**

But God has delivered us out of a worse condition, and that grace should fuel our obedience to care for the least of these.

Because we have been adopted, we have power and hope to serve this broken world.

**Will Smith, Fresh Prince - “Papa's Gotta a Brand New Excuse.”**

- Phil: “It’s okay to be angry, Will.”
- Will: “I just wish I didn’t buy him this present, ripping it from his duffle bag (a statue of a father holding his son).”
- Will: Hey, you know what, you ain't got to do nothing, uncle Phil. You know, ain't like I'm still five years old, you know? Ain't like I'll be sitting every night asking my mom "when's daddy coming home", you know? Who needs him? Hey, he wasn't there to teach me how to shoot my first basket, but I learned it, didn't I? And I got pretty [dang] good at it too, didn't I, uncle Phil?
- Uncle Phil: Yeah, you did.
- Will: Got to do my first date without him, right? I learned how to ride, I learned how to shave, I learned how to fight without him. I had \*fourteen\* great birthdays without him; he never even sent me a [dang] card.
- Will: To [hell] with him! [pause]
- Will: I didn't need him then I won't need him now.
- Uncle Phil: Will
- Will: No, you know what, uncle Phil? I'll get through college without him, I'll get a great job without him, I'll marry me a beautiful honey and I'm having a whole bunch of kids. I'll be a better father than he ever was. And I sure as heck don't need him for that, 'cause there ain't a Ain't a dang thing he can ever teach me about how to love my kids.
- Will Smith: [he collapses in Phil's arms]. **How come he don't want me, man?**

**“How come he don’t want me, man?”**

That’s everywhere folks. Not just on T.V.

Praise God, the *Father wanted us*. The proper response to His grace, is grace.

**#3: As an act of worship to Jesus**

- **Matthew 25 – “You’ve done it unto Me.”**
- **The orphan has a face, and that face is a Galilean carpenter.**
- **We probably won’t solve the orphan crisis, but everything we can do matters when done in the name of Jesus.**



- Begg preaching in a nursing home as a young minister... “We do it unto Him”

## **20 Ways to Care for Orphans**

**We can all do something.**

Few people would say they “Hate orphans” – but they’ve done nothing...

- **Example: Nacho Libre**

**Be compassionate *and* wise.**

- In our zeal, we can actually create problems.
- **This is a general rule throughout...**

### **1. Pray**

- Father, “What do you want me to do?”
- Go on a prayer walk and talk to the Father

### **2. Start small. (Talk, read, write)**

- Can’t do it all right now – don’t be idealistic.
- **Joshua, “Should I go pro after my freshman or sophomore year?”**
- **Talk** – Have a conversation
- **Read** – Do some studying
- **Write**
  - Write a letter to an orphan
  - Journal about it
  - Do some art work

### **3. Support good organizations**

- There are many who do this full-time. Let’s partner with them, pray for them, support them, etc.

### **4. Speak up**

- – whatever platform you have create awareness
- Orphans are not only powerless, they are voiceless
- The purpose of influence is to speak for those who have no influence (Prov 31:8-9)
- Senior class president, a coach, a teacher, a principle, a lawyer, pastor, etc.
- If you’re a writer, write!

### **5. Be alert and practice hospitality**

- Have your eyes open to needs...
- **Michael and Alex’s story**
- **Donnie and Meg**
- Have a big mouth and open arms
- Be a consistent and compassionate pro-life advocate

### **6. Adopt**

- Have you seriously considered this?
- You have many people you can talk to in this church!

### **7. Foster**

- Contact agencies and see what can be done.
- Consider fostering.
- Give Supplies – moving stuff in garbage bags
- Care for case workers – throw them a party to say thanks

### **8. Sponsor**

- You can do this through 127

### **9. Care for the functionally fatherless.**

- Keep eyes open.

- Volunteer at local ministries, programs, schools
  - Get involved – baseball does for me
  - Everyone knows him
  - Practice Hospitality
10. **Provide practical care for adoptive/foster parents (e.g., respite care)**
    - You can provide respite care through the foster care system (Kelsey is doing that for a foster child for a weekend); others have helped adoptive parents for a weekend...
    - Baby-sitting
    - Meals
  11. **Fund adoptions**
  12. **Provide for needs as you hear about them**
    - Shoes
      - Nairobi, children who need shoes, 1,000 pairs to kids in slum
    - School supplies
    - Cedar Point Apartment Ministry
  13. **Train leaders**
    - Churches and church leaders aren't doing it.
    - Every time I train church planters, I talk about orphan care
    - Seminaries need to be teaching on it
  14. **Promote/Support in-country adoption**
    - Lost of myths abound
    - Much cheaper
  15. **Move**
    - Go live among the poor and the orphan
  16. **Visit**
    - Visit with a purpose and a plan.
    - Grateful for orgs that are there all the time, with people on the ground; and we actually meet a need.
  17. **Provide transitional assistance**
    - This is a big need around the world for those who age out
    - "Un-adopted" Program through Lifeline
    - Strengthen relationships with orphanages
    - Turn business men loose
  18. **Use your vocational skills**
    - Pigs – in Kenya, 20 years
    - Leverage calling
  19. **Fight trafficking** – many are orphans, or those aged out.
    - IGP – Gendercide – feeds into this world
  20. **Prevent orphans**
- Poverty often leads families to put their children up for adoption. So we must fight poverty wisely and compassionately.
- Relief
  - Restoration
  - Development

**We have everything we need to invest in it orphan care ministry.**

- There are many ways to do it.
- We have the greatest motivations for doing it.
- A great Savior who demonstrated care for the least of these.

**"I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you" John 14:18**

- **He's given us the Holy Spirit to us; may we go to them**