



NOT
ALONE

SURVIVE PAST FIVE

5TH BIRTHDAY PARTY

YOUTH ACTION

1300 789 991

www.shareanopportunity.org



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YOUTH ACTION

Concept

Your youth group takes a fun trip down memory lane as they celebrate a 5th birthday party, complete with balloons, birthday cake and kids party games. But this party also has a serious side – your youth remember that almost 8 million poor children around the world die before reaching their fifth birthday and they can take action to help change this.

Background

Every year 7.7 million children in poor countries die before their fifth birthday. That's more than 870 children every hour, or one child death every 4 seconds. Most die from treatable causes such as measles, diarrhoea, and pneumonia. They die because their parents cannot access medical care, either because they cannot afford it or because their country cannot afford to provide the medical services they need.

Since 1970 this terrible statistic has been declining. In fact the proportion of children dying before they reach the age of five halved between 1970 and 2007! In South Asia (India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Nepal), the region where most of the world's poor live, the rate has dropped from 1 in 5 children dying before their fifth birthday to 1 in 12.

The main reasons for this decline are an improvement in the quality of medical services available to poor families, an increase in the ability of poor families to afford medical care, and an improvement in the circumstances in which poor families live (eg. when kids can access clean drinking water or sleep under anti-malaria bed nets they don't get ill as often).

Take Action!

Survive Past 5 allows your youth group to help poor families who don't yet benefit from these advances. Your group will help in two ways:

1. By signing a birthday card that is sent to the Minister for Foreign Affairs. This card calls on the Australian Government to increase the amount of aid money it devotes to helping improve medical services in poor countries;
2. By raising money for Baptist World Aid Australia's child development program. This program, known as SAO Children, helps communities in poor countries improve the health and well-being of their children so that they can live the full life that God intends for them.

Running Your Party

To run your Survive Past 5 Birthday Party take the following simple steps:

1. Register your birthday party on the Micah Challenge website - <http://www.micahchallenge.org.au/fifthbirthdayaction>, and contact Baptist World Aid Australia on 1300 789 991 to order Birthday Cards and SAO Children flyers.
2. Send out invitations to a very special birthday celebration. Include on the invitation a suggested donation that will be used to purchase a gift for children living in poverty around the world. You could also make this a dress up activity with a 5th birthday party theme or a children's television character theme.
3. Decorate the room where you will hold your party just like you would a child's 5th birthday party. Include balloons, streamers, and a 'Happy Birthday' sign. As guests arrive, have children's party music playing in the background and ask them to put on party hats. Collect their donations in a box decorated as a birthday present with a slot for donations.



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4. On the day: Once everyone has arrived explain that you are celebrating the 5th birthdays of children in poor countries around the world. Share that in 1990 almost 13 million children died before they reached the age of five, but that today that figure has dropped to just on 9 million. In other words, 4 million more children are reaching their fifth birthday today! And it is their birthdays we are celebrating today. Explain that we're also going to focus on what we can do to ensure even more children live to the age of 5.
5. Party Games: depending on your time availability play a series of children's party games. For a larger group, you could have several activities at the same time, with groups of youth moving around from activity to activity. These games could include:
 - Musical chairs: each time a person is out give them a slip of paper with a child survival fact on it – see below;
 - Pin the Tail on the Donkey: or a themed variant, 'Pin the Child on the Mother', noting that we want to see healthy children united with their mothers;
 - Bobbing for Apples: note that we can do this safely because we have clean water and that many children in the developing world are now surviving because they too are able to drink clean water;
 - Limbo : as the stick gets lower call out the lowering of child deaths – see below.
 - Pass the Parcel: include child survival related facts and toys in each layer - for ideas see below;
 - Birthday cake decorating: have some undecorated cup cakes or sponge cakes and ask small groups to decorate them with a 'Survive Past 5' theme.
 - Build a soccer ball: you will need a large quantity of plastic bags, rags etc. Explain that in some poor communities, children build their own soccer balls by tying together plastic bags and rags. They might not have the same resources, but just like us they want to play sports. Then play a game of soccer (or other ball game) and see how their home-made soccer balls hold up! For larger groups this can be run in teams. The team whose soccer ball holds together longest wins!
6. Party Food: Serve a supper consisting of kids party foods (cocktail frankfurts, party pies, party sausage rolls, fairy bread, lollies, etc. You can purchase most of these at the local supermarket).
7. Birthday cake: Put candles on a cake (or on cakes decorated during the night) and sing Happy Birthday to the world's children. Show the 'Youth Action' video clip and give a short talk reflecting on God's heart for children who live in poverty and/or on child mortality. The video clip can be viewed at <http://www.baptistworldaid.org.au/YouthAction>
8. Changing the World: Count the total raised from the donations and share that the money will be a gift to Baptist World Aid Australia for its SAO Children programs in poor countries. Hand out a Baptist World Aid Australia flyer for youth to take home. Hand out the Micah Challenge 5th birthday cards, explain what they are about, and invite everyone to sign and return to you.* Before collecting the cards, take a photo of your group in their party hats holding up their cards.
9. Spend some time in prayer: Pray for the children and their families that struggle daily to survive. Pray that God will help us to see the small and easy things that we can do as His representatives to help bring change. Give thanks for the many blessings that He has given us, and pray that He will bless our actions today.
10. Post the cards and funds raised to Baptist World Aid Australia, Locked Bag 122, Frenchs Forest, NSW 2086. (Please don't send cash.) Send a photo of your group holding the birthday cards to your local Member of Federal Parliament, explaining what your party was about and the action your youth group took. Your local Member's details can be found at <http://lobbying.catalystonline.org.au/findPolitician.php>.

*Cards and flyers available from Baptist World Aid Australia.



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PARTY RESOURCES

- + Statistics for Musical Chairs
- + Limbo Stories
- + Pass the parcel
- + Short Talk
- + Bible Verses

+ STATISTICS FOR MUSICAL CHAIRS

Print enough child health stats to give one to every person as they get out.

Every hour, over 870 children die from poverty related causes. You can help change this.

In 1970, 14% of the world's children died before their 5th birthday. Better health care, access to medical treatment, clean water and decent toilets have helped halve this figure to 7%. You can help it halve again.

One African child dies every 30 seconds from malaria. Insecticide-treated bed nets prevent transmission and increase child survival.

Diarrhoea is a leading cause of sickness and death among children in developing countries. Treatment for sick children with Oral Rehydration Salts combined with zinc supplements is safe, cheap, and saves lives.

About 20 million children under five worldwide are severely malnourished, which leaves them more vulnerable to illness and early death. You can help change this.

+ LIMBO STORIES

When introducing the limbo explain that just as the limbo stick gets lower and lower, so the numbers of children dying before they reach the age of five has been getting lower and lower. Each time we lower the stick we will call out some information about this, and each time we do we want everyone to cheer and celebrate.

Arrange for 1 or 2 people with loud voices to call out one of the stats below each round of the limbo.

In 1970 only 90 in every hundred children living in Albania survived to the age of five.
Today more than 98 in every hundred Albanian children celebrate their 5th birthday!

In 1970 only 76 in every hundred children living in Bangladesh survived to the age of five.
Today more than 94 in every hundred Bangladeshi children celebrate their 5th birthday!

In 1970 only 76 in every hundred children living in Egypt survived to the age of five.
Today more than 96 in every hundred Egyptian children celebrate their 5th birthday!

In 1970 only 76 in every hundred children living in Eritrea, Africa, survived to the age of five.
Today 93 in every hundred Eritrean children celebrate their 5th birthday!

In 1970 only 83 in every hundred children living in Indonesia survived to the age of five.
Today almost 97 in every hundred Indonesian children celebrate their 5th birthday!

In 1970 only 78 in every hundred children living in Laos survived to the age of five.
Today 93 in every hundred Indonesian children celebrate their 5th birthday!

In 1970 only 76 in every hundred children living in Indonesia survived to the age of five.
Today almost 95 in every hundred Indonesian children celebrate their 5th birthday!



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+ PASS THE PARCEL

Place the following gifts, along with an explanatory note in the layers of the parcel. This will allow 7 rounds. Have participants display the gift and read the note when they open their layer.

Gift: Toy stethoscope (or other medical item e.g. bandaids)

Explanatory Note

In Tanzania, Africa, the government doubled spending on health care. This allowed poor people to access health care and saw the under 5 death rate drop by almost half in the space of ten years. When the Australian Government provides aid to poor countries they can increase their spending on health care.

Gift: Syringe (without a needle in it!)

Explanatory Note

In many poorer countries children don't get vaccinated for diseases like measles and meningococcal. Vaccines are cheap to provide and can save millions of lives. When the Australian Government provides aid to poor countries they can increase their spending on vaccines and save lives.

Gift: Bed net (use a small piece of mesh or netting) and insect repellent roll on

Explanatory Note

In Africa one child dies every 30 seconds from malaria. Malaria is passed by mosquito bites. So an easy way to save children's lives is for children to sleep under bed nets treated with insecticide. When the Australian Government provides aid to poor countries they can subsidise bed nets for families that cannot afford them.

Gift: Toy toilet or toilet deodorant tablet or wad of toilet paper.

Explanatory Note

Diarrhoea kills millions of children every year. Over 2.5 billion people in the world do not have safe and clean toileting. Baptist World Aid Australia has programs that show families how to build safe toilets and so reduce child deaths.

Gift: Baby clothes

Explanatory Note

Many of the world's children die in the first days and weeks of life. If their mothers had access to trained birth attendants and healthcare before and after pregnancy, many lives would be saved. Baptist World Aid Australia has programs that train and support birth attendants.

Gift: Food item of some kind

Explanatory Note

In Cambodia many children die from malnutrition. Baptist World Aid Australia has programs that help families grow food and livestock they can use for food during the hungry season.

Gift for Final Round: Doll/teddy bear

Explanatory Note

Since 1970 the number of children dying before their 5th birthday has halved. This is great news! But 7.7 million children still die before their 5th birthday. This is bad news. We can help more children survive past 5 by asking our government to provide more health aid to poorer countries and by supporting Baptist World Aid Australia's child development programs.



+ SHORT TALK

Following the party, a short talk will help your youth group to focus on God’s heart for children in poverty. Here’s an outline for one idea:

Life to the full

John 10:10 I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

We have learned a lot tonight about the terrible conditions that children in poverty live in. We have learnt that nearly 8 million children die before their 5th Birthday, that many more who do survive will not get an education, have enough to eat, have clean water to drink, or access to health care. Surely this is not the ‘fullness of life’ that Jesus intends for these children. As Jesus’ hands and feet, Christians are compelled to act on behalf of those who suffer the indignity of poverty. Proverbs 31:8 Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Together with God, we can do something to bring change for children in poverty. We have started with something small today (signing cards and donations for children in poverty). Let this be just the beginning!

+ BIBLE VERSES

Bible verses on poverty and injustice

There are over 2000 verses on poverty and injustice in the bible! Here are just a few:

Psalm 140:12 “I know that the LORD secures justice for the poor and upholds the cause of the needy.”

Proverbs 19:17 “He who is kind to the poor lends to the LORD, and he will reward him for what he has done.”

Isaiah 58:6-10 Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke?

Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter - when you see the naked, to clothe him, and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood...

... if you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness, and your night will become like the noonday.

Jeremiah 22:3 “This is what the LORD says: Do what is just and right. Rescue from the hand of his oppressor the one who has been robbed. Do no wrong or violence to the alien, the fatherless or the widow, and do not shed innocent blood in this place.”

Matthew 5:42 “Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you.”

Luke 3:11 “John answered, ‘the man with two tunics should share with him who has none, and the one who has food should do the same.’”

Luke 14:12-14 “Then Jesus said to his host, ‘When you give a luncheon or dinner, do not invite your friends, your brothers or relatives, or your rich neighbours; if you do, they may invite you back and so you will be repaid. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.’”



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2 Corinthians 9:6-9 "Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. As it is written: 'He has scattered abroad his gifts to the poor; his righteousness endures forever.'"

1 Timothy 6:18 "Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share."

James 1:27 "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."

1 John 3:17 "If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him?"

