



# CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP



# LET THE CHILDREN COME

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven." —Matthew 19:14 (ESV)

## JESUS SHOWS US THAT CHILDREN ARE BLESSINGS TO BE NURTURED.


Our prayer is for all children to grow in their understanding of God's immeasurable love, and for them to have the opportunity to experience Jesus' offer of life in all its fullness.

## YET IN MANY PARTS OF THE WORLD, CHILDREN AND ADULTS ARE HURTING SPIRITUALLY.

- Parents follow destructive cultural norms.
- Pastors and teachers have little or no training in ministering to children.
- Bibles and biblical training are hard to come by.
- Youth ministries of any kind are scarce.







Between 2016 and 2022, more than 10.1 million children and adults benefited from our Christian discipleship programs.

## MORE THAN 70 YEARS OF MINISTRY GUIDES OUR CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP WORK WITH CHILDREN.

### FOCUSING ON:

#### Parents

- Equipping caregivers with parenting principles that reflect Christian values.

#### Pastors

- Training pastors, Christian leaders, and other local leaders to create programs that are appropriate for children and engage their interest to explore God's purpose for their lives.

#### Programs

- Strengthening children's and youth ministries by equipping churches and schools with Bibles, biblically based materials, and teacher training.
- Working with local ministry partners to establish mentoring programs and ministry/Bible clubs for children and youth.



# WHY CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP?

## Eternal needs must be addressed alongside physical needs.

Our work in tackling extreme poverty is inseparable from our work to overcome spiritual poverty. Children can't truly experience fullness of life unless they have the chance to know and deepen their understanding of Jesus' love for them.

## In partnership with parents, pastors, Christian faith leaders, and local ministry partners, we create opportunities and remove barriers for children to experience God's love.

World Vision's Christian Discipleship initiative brings together our multiple proven, adaptable, biblically based programs that help people in poverty to establish a transformative view of life and purpose. We focus on serving the most vulnerable children, knowing that sustainable solutions to deep-rooted

poverty must include spiritual solutions and are only achievable when the child is the focus of development efforts and measurements of effectiveness.

We believe that God is already at work everywhere and wants every child to experience the fullness of life Jesus offers. Where churches exist, we support the discipleship work of local Christian leaders—and in Christian-minority settings, we shine the light of Christ through the incarnational witness of our staff, focusing in our work with people of other faiths on our shared desire for children's well-being.

Between October 2021 and September 2022, we've partnered with:

**17,000+** churches around the world

**106,000+** pastors and Christian leaders

## WORLD VISION'S CAMPAIGN SIGNATURE INITIATIVES



**LIFE**



**HOPE**



**FUTURE**





# LET THE CHILDREN COME

Biblically based programs that create environments where children can flourish while experiencing God's love, inspired by Matthew 19:14



## Goals:

- Children know their purpose and identity in God.
- Parents and caregivers provide loving homes and nurturing support.
- Church leaders are equipped to shepherd children's faith in Jesus.

We desire to see everyone working together to impact children's futures both in the here and now—and for eternity.

### INCREASE ACCESS

- Redeemed identity
- Positive parenting
- Access to God's Word
- Biblical mentoring
- Children's participation
- Church leaders empowered to connect children to Jesus

BELONG

BELIEVE

### REMOVE BARRIERS

- Uncertain identity
- Violence against children
- Lack of biblical resources
- Cycles of dependency
- Lack of child ministry training for faith leaders

BECOME

## Outcomes:

- Adults provide safe places where children fully BELONG.
- Children have experiences that help them BELIEVE in God.
- Children and adults are inspired to live like Jesus and BECOME the thriving people God wants them to be.

## Measuring impact with third-party research



We're partnering with Baylor University and Fuller Seminary to measure the impact of some of our core Let the Children Come programs. Baylor will evaluate the link between youth mentoring programs and child and youth well-being, while Fuller will concentrate on how our parent-focused work positively affects children. Both will look at child development outcomes and faith leaders' roles.



After going through a Christian Discipleship: Let the Children Come program in Kenya, James's way of living changed. People noticed that he'd begun treating his wife and children with new love and respect. "[My] children used to be scared. Now they are very happy ... They love their father and their mother talking together," says James (right). "I have to take care of my family. The Lord loves all of us. As a family, you need to be one."



# BIBLICAL EMPOWERED WORLDVIEW

changes mindsets for generations to come

Many children and families want to change their circumstances but struggle to break the generational cycle of poverty. Feelings of powerlessness and low self-worth can dominate their worldview and hold them back.

## Equipping families to move from dependence to agency

Biblical Empowered Worldview is a powerful curriculum used to build confidence, shift mindsets, and promote a scripturally based view of identity and accountability. We work alongside community and faith leaders leading workshops based on five themed modules (see list at right). Participants reflect on Scripture, discuss how to apply lessons in their own lives and communities, build relationships with one another, and reshape how they see the world.

Looking ahead, we aim to train faith leaders, government officials, and other partners locally and nationally. Once trained, they can train others, transforming communities from the inside out through the powerful Word of God.



## THE CURRICULUM INCLUDES FIVE MODULES

- Identity
- Vision
- Compassion
- Relationships
- Faith

**More than 1.7 million adults and children in 26 countries benefited from Biblical Empowered Worldview training between 2016 and 2022.**



Before taking the Biblical Empowered Worldview training in Zambia, Jane says she used to think that “God created me to be poor.” Now she knows that she was created in the very image of God and is capable of great things. It spurs her hope and motivation to work hard. “We can use what God gave us to move ourselves up,” she says.



# INTERNATIONAL BIBLE FUND

provides access to Bibles and other biblical resources

Our faith is rooted in the peace, joy, comfort, and guidance found in Scripture. Hebrews 4:12 (NIV) says, “The Word of God is living and active,” so one of the foundational elements of our work is the provision of Bibles and Bible training. Particularly in societies impacted by conflict, poverty, and oppression, a Bible is often seen as an impossible luxury. But Scripture is vital to support people’s spiritual well-being and equip them to make godly choices.

## Increasing access to God’s Word

We work with local churches, Christian partner organizations, and schools to provide Bibles and other age-appropriate resources that equip children, parents, and pastors to read God’s Word for themselves.

## Boosting all of our Christian discipleship work

Participants in Biblical Empowered Worldview, Let the Children Come, and other programs can receive Bibles, when available and requested.



**IN AFRICA ALONE ...**

**200+ million believers don’t have a Bible**

**Between 2016 and 2022, more than 1.4 million people benefited from Bibles provided through World Vision.**



In Matthew 4:4 (NIV), Jesus says “It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’” Here, 17-year-old Rumeniger reads his Bible as a mentor talks with the youth group at Siloe Assemblies of God Church in El Salvador. Rumeniger and his friends actively participate in the Let the Children Come discipleship program facilitated through the church’s partnership with World Vision.





"The fruit ... continues to give on for generation to generation to generation. And that will open up new doors of opportunity for the community and for the people. This is tangible. The results are there. **You get to sit with a parent and hear 'This is where I was and where I am today.' All God is asking us to do is partner with Him. He'll bring the increase.**"

—Lora Williams, Women of Vision donor, after visiting World Vision's Christian discipleship programs in Honduras

**Together, let's engage 46 million people in 49 countries with Christian discipleship activities and tools to support the spiritual nurture and well-being of children, including training 500,000 local pastors and leaders to multiply the impact of local churches.**

Learn more at [worldvisionphilanthropy.org/christian-discipleship](https://worldvisionphilanthropy.org/christian-discipleship)



World Vision is a Christian humanitarian organization dedicated to working with children, families, and their communities worldwide to reach their full potential by tackling the causes of poverty and injustice. Motivated by our faith in Jesus Christ, we serve alongside the poor and oppressed as a demonstration of God's unconditional love for all people. World Vision serves all people, regardless of religion, race, ethnicity, or gender. PHL18943\_1123 © 2023 World Vision, Inc.