

*What Does the Bible Say About Children* original text (article): <https://www.worldvision.org/christian-faith-news-stories/what-does-the-bible-say-about-children>

NOTE: These stories do not need to be shared. It is background information for the teacher and provides an opportunity to tell the delightful story with students as it fits with the learning taking place.

### The story behind the photograph:

Photos at the home of Sofia (she is wearing a red “Hello Kitty” shirt) and her family, who are Venezuelan migrants being served by World Vision in Colombia. Sofia and her brothers love to visit the World Vision Child-Friendly Space (CFS) nearby.



Sofia’s family:

- Elias Pacheco, 26 – dad
- Mariangel Blanco, 26 – mom
- Susej, 1
- Sofia, 5
- Wilker, 8
- Josvier, 7

The children were in school in Venezuela, but they are not in school now.

Mom: “We came here last year, September-October. We left Venezuela because of hunger. My baby and I were both malnourished, and I was trying to breastfeed. We crossed the bridge [from Venezuela] with a temporary pass. For the first few days we slept on the street near the bridge. Then we connected with some friends who live here [in El Talento] and we came here. We stayed with them for two weeks. That was too long; it was a strain on all of us. But they helped us find this place. We are grateful that the owner has let us stay here and take care of it for them. The situation for us is very hard here, but we are getting by. It’s still better than in Venezuela.”

Dad: “I don’t have the right permits to work, but I can sometimes pick up day labor jobs around here. I’d like to get the documents to work legally so that we can have a steady income. I can do construction work.

“The Child-Friendly Space is the best thing in my children’s lives. I send them there to play. They make friends, and they come home happy and singing. If they didn’t have the CFS, they would have nothing to do. They love it.”



### The story behind the photograph:

Distribution of blankets and Elmo toys from World Vision in Iraq’s Hassansham M2 Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) camp. The WASH Up! program teaches children about water, sanitation, and hygiene. It’s led by puppet characters Elmo and Raya through a partnership with Sesame Street.



### The story behind the photograph:

Leticia, shown here with her parents, is a well-adjusted, cheerful, and chatty 10-year-old who enjoys school and hopes to be a doctor or nurse when she leaves school.

The youngest of four girls, Leticia and her sisters, Maribel, 17, Monica, 15, and Elizabeth, 13, have a strong bond and all attend the same school. Leticia loves to play soccer, play with her friends, dance, and participate in community activities.

### The story behind the photograph:

Five-year-old Jannatul, a Rohingya refugee, loves spending time at World Vision's Child-Friendly Space in the refugee camp where she currently lives. Jannatul is the sole surviving child of Rohingya widow Salima. Her name means "the best heaven."



**SUMMARY:** World Vision's Child-Friendly Space in refugee Camp 13 in the city of Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh, is called Surjoful, or "sunflower," and was named by the children who visit it every day.

- Farjana Faraz Tumpa, age 20, teaches children rhymes and the alphabet.
- "Jannatul attends the Child-Friendly Space every day. She concentrates on her studies. When I teach them something, she follows me carefully."
- Farjana respects Jannatul's mother, Salima, a widow who lost her husband and two children: "She is a very good lady. Whenever we call a parents' meeting, she comes. She has only one child, so she is very careful with her."
- Salima is grateful for the Child-Friendly Space: "Jannatul goes to the Child-Friendly Space. It is important that she gets some kind of education." She loves the staff. "World Vision people are good and kind to us. For everything, I am grateful."
- On the children, Salima said: "When they came, they had seen so many bad things in front of their eyes. They saw people killed. When they come here, they can forget those things. They can have fun. When they come here, they feel good. They are treated nicely. We don't scold them."
- She has hopes for Jannatul's future. "As she has faced so much and lost her father, I hope she will be a good person and educated to do something for her family."

**The story behind the photograph:**

“World Vision staff member Florence Mulenga jumps with children in Hamunyanga Village in Luuwmbbo, Zambia. With support from World Vision, the community was able to add water taps to supply clean water throughout the village for drinking, household use, and watering gardens.”

**The story behind the photograph:**

Doris has worked for World Vision since 2004. She loves serving and being in direct contact with the children.

“I relish the opportunity to serve: the simple things that one can offer, like a smile, to be able to help with a word or just listen to the families that approach me. That's what motivates me—being in contact with children and families. To be able to help from what I have learned so far. Being able to serve them is my biggest motivation.”

**The story behind the photograph:**

Chen is an 11-year-old third grader and a World Vision sponsored child. Math is his favorite subject. The school materials inside his classroom were donated by World Vision.

An average of 40 to 50 children attend a class in most of the rural schools in China. World Vision has helped improve the quality of education, not just for Chen, but also for the rest of the children going to his school. Staff and students at Chen's school no longer have to worry about lack of supplies and about classrooms that were inconvenient to access and unsafe during bad weather.

The staff shared that parents in their community are included in activities. This allows them to learn and become aware of issues affecting their children, especially concerns around child protection. When planning activities for the school, staff make it a priority to include parents. Doing so helps ensure families hear about important issues impacting child protection and the benefits of child sponsorship in their community.