



Manage Your Assets to Always Include Meaningful and Memorable Gifts to Mothers, Widows, and Orphans

The last of two (2) lessons:

Caring for the Orphans

God's heart for the orphan is clearly displayed throughout the Old and New Testaments.

The estimated number of orphans living in orphanages or on the street (globally).

- *17.8 million children worldwide have lost both parents*
- *153 million children worldwide have lost one of their parents*
- *There are only 135,000 orphans adopted by each year.*

Below is a short list of what the Bible says about children living as orphans.

1. All Orphaned Children Have a Father

Psalms 68:5 says, "A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows, is God in his holy dwelling."

- **Of all the ways the Lord God Almighty could have chosen to relate to humanity, He chose the language of family.**
 - ✓ He could have described Himself as a benevolent dictator, kind boss, or patient landlord. But instead, He chose the word *father*.
 - ✓ He presents Himself as a Father because we all know what a father is and does. Even if we did not have earthly fathers who treated us well, we have an intrinsic understanding of what a good father should be. God planted that understanding in our hearts.
 - ✓ We all have a need to be loved, cherished, protected, and valued. Ideally, an earthly father will meet those needs. But even if he doesn't, God will.
 - ✓ Jesus taught His followers to address God as Father (Luke 11:2). Throughout Scripture, God describes His love for us as that of a caring parent (Isaiah 49:15; John 16:26-27; 2 Corinthians 6:18).

- ✓ Although He possesses characteristics of both father and mother (Isaiah 66:13), He chooses the masculine word because it also denotes strength, protection, and provision (Psalm 54:4).
- **God has a special place in His heart for the orphans and fatherless** (Deuteronomy 24:20; Jeremiah 49:11; James 1:27). Psalm 27:10 says, “*Though my father and mother forsake me, the LORD will receive me.*”
 - ✓ **God knows that many times earthly fathers have been absent or have not done their job** (Ephesians 6:4).
 - ✓ **God offers to fill the role of a Father** (John 6:37; Deuteronomy 1:31). *He invites us to call out to Him when we are in trouble* (Psalm 50:15), *to cast all our worries on Him* (1 Peter 5:7), *and to enjoy His company* (1 Corinthians 1:9; Psalm 116:1; 1 John 5:14).
 - ✓ **He models for us the characteristics He had in mind when He designed fatherhood.** *Although many times earthly fathers do not live up to the ideal, God promises that, in Him, no one has to be without a perfect Father.*

Summary: God is the great protector and loving Father of all children living as orphans. Reminder: Psalm 68:5 says, “*Father of the fatherless and protector of widows, is God in his holy habitation.*” He who numbers the hairs on our head will certainly not turn away from the children living as orphans, and this should inspire us to act.

2. All Children Living as Orphans Deserve Justice

Deuteronomy 10:18 says, “*He ensures that orphans and widows receive justice. He shows love to the foreigners living among you and gives them food and clothing.*” Also, Psalm 10:14 says, “*But you, God, see the trouble of the afflicted. You consider their grief and take it in hand. The victims commit themselves to you; you are the helper of the fatherless.*”

- **Justice is a fundamental part of God’s character, as we are shown in the Bible.** That even one child does not know the love of a family is a great injustice, and there are millions of children living in this reality.
- **God promises protection and help for those who cannot protect themselves, and he redeems injustice through his mighty love.**
 - ✓ He also asks us to do something about it. God invites everyone to play their part in working toward justice.

3. The People of God Will Care for Orphans

James 1:27 says, “Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.” The words of the Bible call God’s people to actively

pursue meeting the needs of children living as orphans, and a great place to start is through prayer.

4. The People of God Share Their Resources with Orphans.

The following verse comes from a passage in Deuteronomy where God is instructing his people about tithing. Deuteronomy 14:29 says, **“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.”**

- *People are called by God to remember children living as orphans in their giving.*
- *As you consider how God may be calling you to care for children living as orphans, take heart. He who calls you to this work will be faithful to equip you for the work he has called you to.*

“For the God who calls you is faithful, and He can be trusted to make it so.” — 1 Thessalonians 5:24

God’s heart for orphans is quite clear throughout the Word of God.

Another theme:

Adoption is clearly displayed throughout the Old and New Testaments.

Woven throughout Scripture, the theme of adoption serves to not only strengthen our faith but to also encourage us as we press into the needs of orphans around the world.

Below are some beautiful stories of adoption from the Bible:

1. Moses

The book of Exodus contains a story (Exodus 1:15-22) of a Hebrew woman, Jochebed, who had a son at a time when Pharaoh ordered all Hebrew male infants be put to death. Instead, Jochebed found a basket, waterproofed it, placed her son inside, and gently sent him down the river. Not long after, one of Pharaoh’s daughters caught sight of the basket and retrieved the young boy. She eventually adopted him into the royal family and named him Moses (Exodus 2:1-10) — the same Moses who grew to be an important leader, prophet, and faithful servant of God!

2. **Esther**

In the Book of Esther, a girl named Esther became an orphan following her parents' death. Fortunately, Esther was adopted by her cousin, and later she even became a queen. Today, we can read how God worked through Esther to bring deliverance to the Jewish people!

3. **Jesus**

In the New Testament, Jesus was conceived through the Holy Spirit (Matthew 1:18), and was adopted by His mother's husband. Joseph took Jesus as his own child, and along with Mary, raised a Son who changed the course of history.

Have you ever thought about why James and Jesus' other brothers did not take a liking to Jesus while he was living...and why they did not believe Jesus when he started talking to them about being the Messiah?

Inheritance in the Hebrew family (custom in Jesus day): Among the early Hebrews, as well as among many other nations of antiquity, custom decided that the next of kin should enter upon the possession of the estate of a deceased person. The first-born son usually assumed the headship of the family, and succeeded to the control of the family property. Each of the sons of the deceased receives an equal share of the estate of his father or of his mother, except the first-born of the father, who receives a double share.

Money, money, money...love of it is the root of all evil.

4. **Spiritual Adoption**

In addition to a physical adoption, the Bible also speaks about adoption in a spiritual sense. As Romans 8:15 so beautifully states, "The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, 'Abba, Father.'"

- *God says we become part of His family in much the same way a family welcomes a new child — it is done out of love.*
- *As God adopts those who receive Christ into His spiritual family, it should be the church's desire to adopt these precious ones into our mission responsibility.*

Here are the top seven Bible verses about caring for Orphans:

- **James 1:27 "Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world."**

People might say they're spiritual (whatever that means) or they might call themselves religious but God detests such talk if they neglect the widows and the orphans in the church. Talk is cheap; action is not. God doesn't want more religious people; He desires disciples after His own heart.

- **Exodus 22:22-24** “**You shall not mistreat any widow or fatherless child. If you do mistreat them, and they cry out to me, I will surely hear their cry, and my wrath will burn, and I will kill you with the sword, and your wives shall become widows and your children fatherless.**”

God's wrath burns against those who mistreat or take advantage of the widows and the fatherless (orphans) because they are not in a position to take care of themselves, therefore it is incumbent upon Christians to make sure no one takes advantage of or mistreat any of the widows or the orphans (fatherless).

- **Isaiah 1:17** “**Learn to do good; seek justice, correct oppression; bring justice to the fatherless, plead the widow's cause.**” Isaiah the Prophet puts it this way; we must seek justice and correct any oppression we see and bring swift justice to the orphans and plead for the widow's cause because no one else likely will.
- **Psalm 82:3** “**Give justice to the weak and the fatherless; maintain the right of the afflicted and the destitute.**” The psalmist says that we must give justice to the weak and the orphans so we are without excuse if we see the orphans who are afflicted and don't do anything about it.
- **Job 29:12** “**Because I delivered the poor who cried for help, and the fatherless who had none to help him.**” Sadly, many in Job's day apparently didn't attend to the poor and the orphans because he says that he saw that they “had none to help” so he did. Those who know about the needs of the orphans in the church and do nothing about it will have to give an account for their sin of omission to God someday because Jesus sees it as if we were doing to Him (Matt 25:4).
- **Psalm 146:9** “**The Lord watches over the sojourners; he upholds the widow and the fatherless, but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.**” Aren't we all really sojourners in this life since this is not our home? How sad that we neglect our widows, widowers, and orphans in the church while most of us have plenty (for the most part).
- **John 14:18** “**I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.**” This last verse about caring for the orphans is one that shows

God's faithfulness. He will not only never leave us or forsake us (Heb 13:5) but He won't leave us as orphans either.

Conclusion

We who have repented and trusted in Christ have God as our Father and His sure and certain promises are that He will come for us someday to bring us into the kingdom but in the meantime, He's going to care for us as His own children (adopted) and the last thing He'd ever do is forsake us or leave us in our time of need (Heb 13:5). Sadly, this is not so with the world that often overlooks the orphans because they're so fixated on their own needs, pleasures, and comfort.

As we stand before the Father and His Son, Jesus the Christ, will we know without a shadow of doubt that we did what was needed to see orphans and widows being properly cared for?

