



EVENT PLAN

Sweet Sleep Pajama JAM! is a fun, easy event for birthday parties, slumber parties, missions nights at church or a special project at school. Your kids can make a difference by learning about the needs of the world's orphans and learning how they can help to improve the lives of orphaned, abandoned and vulnerable children in Uganda by providing them with clean, comfortable beds. A one-time gift of just \$140 provides a child living in an orphanage in Kampala, Uganda with a bed that will keep them from sleeping on a cold concrete floor or on dirty scraps of cardboard or foam. A gift of just \$50 provides a bed for a child living in northern Uganda. These children live in small huts in remote areas, sleeping on straw mats or even on bare dirt floors.

To begin your project, pick an attainable goal for your group. 20 kids bringing \$25 can keep 10 children from sleeping on the ground in northern Uganda. 20 kids bringing \$35 can provide comfortable, life-changing new beds to 5 kids in orphanages in Kampala, Uganda.

Letting parents know about the project and asking them to send donations with their kids is crucial to your event's success. You may want to set a goal of how many beds you want to be able to provide and suggest a specific dollar goal per kid or family. Think big! Maybe every kid or family in your group can provide one or more beds for orphaned and abandoned children in Uganda! Whatever your goal, the children you will help will be overwhelmingly appreciative that you and your kids thought to help them have a clean, healthy, comfortable place to sleep.





About Yancy:

For more than a decade, Yancy has been making music for Christian families of all ages. Little Praise Party music has focused on young children while other albums have attracted older children especially tweens. Her songs have been recorded by Avalon and Jaci Velasquez while she has shared stages with Michael W. Smith and Newsboys. Yancy has a passion for creating worship resources churches can use in their ministries to kids and families. Each year, she also produces the music for Standard Publishing's VBS impacting over 1 million kids each year. Yancy's growing partnership with Sweet Sleep was birthed from a like-minded passion for improving the quality of life for hurting children based on God's unconditional love. Learn more at www.YancyMinistries.com.

Note: Pajama JAM! has been created for pre-teens but is also a lot of fun for younger children! See the notes at the end of this event plan for songs to substitute for preschool and younger children.





PREPARE

- Purchase 1 pillowcase per child. www.dollartree.com has the lowest price we've found at one dollar a piece.
- Gather permanent markers or fabric markers for pillow craft; fine point markers or permanent markers for bookmarks to send to kids.
- Purchase supplies to make bookmarks that will go in the Bibles Sweet Sleep provides along with the beds. Consider ordering the bookmark, vinyl cover and whichever color tassels you would like. We like the selection and prices here: http://www.craftsuppliesforless.com/craftsupplies_bookmark.html
- Download playlist of videos and songs for Praise Party (or prepare to lead the songs). Songs are available in a bundle for purchase at worshiphousekids.com/sweetsleep. You may also consider booking Yancy to come to your Pajama JAM! Learn more about booking Yancy for your event at www.yancynotnancy.com.





1. INTRODUCTION

Say: "Welcome to our Sweet Sleep Pajama JAM! We're going to have lots of fun learning about and helping orphaned, abandoned and vulnerable children in Uganda tonight. Let's start our night with a fun Praise Party!"

2. PRAISE PARTY WITH YANCY (15min)

Say: "At Pajama JAM! we'll be singing songs recorded by Yancy, a Christian musician who is passionate about helping orphans! This first video will help you get to know Yancy and then we'll sing some of her worship songs together!"

Encourage kids to dance and praise as you sing along with Yancy's song "Not Ashamed." After the first song, encourage kids to sing and praise God as you sing "Shout" and "Our God."

"Not Ashamed" Music Video

"Every Day and Night"

"Shout"

"Our God"

"Live Differently"





3. LEARN (5min)

Say: “Currently, there are an estimated 130-210 million orphaned and abandoned children in the world. That’s a lot! Sometimes kids are orphaned because their parents have died from disease or war, but many times kids are abandoned because parents don’t have the money to feed, clothe or care for them. Helping orphans and meeting their needs is something God calls each of us to do – and we’ve done that by _____! *(Consider sharing other projects you have done to help orphans.)*

“One of the biggest needs that orphaned and abandoned children have is a clean, healthy, comfortable place to sleep. Can you imagine not having a bed to sleep in? Can you imagine sleeping on a dirt floor or on scraps of dirty, smelly foam on a concrete floor? What if you could help keep kids from having to sleep like that? Wouldn’t that be awesome?”

“Well... we can! Right now, in Uganda, there are an estimated 2.5 million orphaned and abandoned children, and most of them don’t have beds to sleep in. But for just \$50 we can keep a kid from sleeping on the dirt floor of their hut in northern Uganda, or for just \$140, we can keep a kid from sleeping on the concrete floor of an orphanage in Kampala, Uganda. (if you want to simplify and focus on just one area of Uganda and one price point for a bed, that’s ok) For such a small amount of money we can give a child a bed that will keep them safe from biting insects, keep them from getting sore backs from sleeping on the hard ground, and help them sleep better so that they will be healthier and even do better in school. Awesome, right? Later tonight we’ll collect an offering to help these kids, but right now, we’re going to make a couple of fun things – 1 to keep and 1 to send to these kids we’re helping tonight!”





4. CRAFTS (30min)

Say: “We’re working with a fun organization called Sweet Sleep tonight – their goal is help kids sleep sweetly by providing safe, healthy beds, mosquito nets and Bibles to orphaned, abandoned and vulnerable children. Tonight, we’re each going to decorate a pillow case to take home to remind us to pray for the kids we’re helping tonight, and for those still waiting for help. We can also remember to pray for those orphans waiting to be adopted, living in orphanages and group homes.”

PRAYER REMINDER PILLOW CASES

Distribute pillow cases and markers and write on a dry-erase board or distribute some copies of ideas for decorating their pillows. You can suggest scripture like Proverbs 3:24 -- “When you lie down you will not be afraid; when you lie down your sleep will be sweet.” Or Psalm 68:5-6a -- “A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows, is God in his holy dwelling. God sets the lonely in families.” Kids could draw a picture of their family and then write a prayer for the family they are helping tonight, etc.

After kids have completed their pillow cases, ask for volunteers to share why they choose to decorate their pillow cases a certain way.

If possible, heat set the pillow case art in a dryer for 20 minutes. If you do not have this capability at church, remind parents to do this when they get home.





BOOKMARKS FOR BIBLES

Next, distribute a bookmark to each child. Encourage them to decorate them and write notes, scripture or prayers for the kids you are supporting tonight. Suggest keeping it simple like: "Praying for you from America!" "Praying for you!" "Jesus loves you!" Be sure to look through the bookmarks for appropriateness before mailing them to Sweet Sleep to take to Uganda. You'll want to make sure the messages are all positive and encouraging.

When your project is over, mail your bookmarks to: Sweet Sleep, P.O. Box 40486, Nashville, TN 37204.

If you have enough supplies and time you could have each child participating make their own bookmark to keep and remember to pray for orphans and vulnerable children in Uganda.





5. RESPONSE / OFFERING (8min)

Say: “Now we have the opportunity to collect our offerings and help these kids in Uganda.” Consider collecting the offering in a pillow case that you made during the craft time or before the event. Say: “God has given us so many reasons to praise and thank Him. I am thankful each of you came tonight and for the difference each of you as made tonight. As we sing this next song, just come up and place your offering in the pillow case and then return to your seat and keep singing this song of praise to God.”

As the offering is collected, sing “10,000 Reasons.”

Once offering is collected, sing “Not Ashamed” using the lyric video.

6. PRAYER (2min)

Close your event in prayer. Thank God for each of the kids who came tonight and the difference they have made in the lives of children in Uganda. Pray that God would be with them and bring them comfort and peace.





OTHER NOTES

** If you're making Pajama JAM! part of a birthday or slumber party, consider adding information to your invitation and encourage donations of a certain amount, depending on how many kids you expect will attend and how many families you think you can help through your party. You might also want to share about the project on your invite and just play Yancy's "Jesus Music Box" cd in the background while you make your crafts to keep and send.

** You can also support Sweet Sleep with this project at VBS. Just share about Sweet Sleep and the "Learn" portion of this curriculum during the days leading up to your Pajama JAM! You can then make one day or night of VBS your Pajama JAM! and use the craft plans and take up your VBS offering for Sweet Sleep.

** If you're hosting a preschool or younger elementary event, consider using these Yancy songs instead of those suggested above.

"Praise Party" from *Little Praise Party-My Best Friend*

"I Like To" from *Little Praise Party-Happy Day Everyday*

"Praise the Lord Every Day" from *Little Praise Party-Taste and See*

"Gonna Serve" from *Little Praise Party-Taste and See*

"Go" from *Little Praise Party-Happy Day Everyday*

"Our God" and "10,000 Reasons," listed in the original event plan, will work as well, due to their popularity and awareness.

