



Thank you for choosing to help meet the needs of the world's orphaned and vulnerable children through Sweet Sleep's Build-A-Bed Project! These Missions Moments can be used as part of your daily VBS worship rally or in individual classrooms as part of Bible Study. These Missions Moments are only a guide – feel free to edit and make these fit your ministry situation.

CHOOSE YOUR PROJECT

Sweet Sleep currently provides beds in two different areas of Uganda. Start your preparation by choosing the project you think will best connect with your kids:

CENTRAL UGANDA

Sweet Sleep is proud to partner with Good Samaritan Children's Center in Kampala, Uganda. GSCC identifies and rescues children in dangerous living conditions from all over Uganda. The children are then given a Christian education while residing with other kids from their own culture and tribe, maintaining customs from their native region. GSCC is fully sustainable, growing their own food and always overstaffed with passionate Ugandan volunteer teachers. What they lack is beds!

For every \$140 bunkbed, Bible, and mosquito net Sweet Sleep can provide, another kid can enroll in the school!

NORTHERN UGANDA

In Northern Uganda, children live in rural villages surrounded by tall grasses and well-walked paths deep in the African bush. Their homes are small, round, mud huts with thatched grass roofs. Many of these children have been orphaned, and others are very vulnerable because of extreme poverty. None of these children have the luxury of sleeping in a warm bed, protected by a mosquito net.

Disease and sickness are prevalent in this part of Uganda, and every \$70 bed Sweet Sleep can provide will not only protect these kids from biting insects and mosquito-borne diseases, but it also shows these kids that they are worthy of dignity and peaceful rest and that God loves them so much!





“ SAY:

“Each day we’ll collect an offering as part of our worship time together. This year, our offering will go to help orphaned and vulnerable kids through Sweet Sleep. Sweet Sleep helps children who are orphaned or vulnerable. What is an orphan?”

(Allow children to answer.)

“That’s right – an orphan is someone who doesn’t have a mom or a dad. But an orphan is also a kid whose parents can’t provide for them because of

poverty. This week, we’re going to have a Build-A-Bed Project and see how many beds we can build for orphans! (include any specifics about the project you are raising funds for and details of your offering/penny wars/contests, etc.)

Let’s watch a video and learn more about Sweet Sleep as we start our week together.”

Show Welsey Video

COLLECT OFFERING

PRAY

Mentioning the offering and that everyone involved – kids, leaders, volunteers would give so that children orphans can sleep sweetly.



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SAY:

“How many of you slept in a comfortable bed last night?”

(Allow children to raise hands. Be sensitive to situations in your area where children might not have slept in a comfortable bed.)

“I know I did – I love my bed – it’s so cozy and soft! When I think about the beds kids around the world

sleep in, I wish every one of them could have a healthy, comfortable place to sleep like I do. When I think about kids who don’t have a place to lay their head each night, it makes me want to give all the money I have to help them have a place to pray, to dream and to sleep sweetly! If you brought money for our offering today, I’m going to pray for our offering and then you can bring it forward. Let’s Pray.”

PRAY

Pray for the children and for the offering. Pray that God would protect children who are currently sleeping in unhealthy conditions and that people around the world would give generously so Sweet Sleep can bring them a cozy, new bed soon.



“ SAY:

“Alright – who out there has a dollar? Hold it up high – first one to hold up a dollar bill – join me here on stage. Now, what can you buy with a dollar.”

(Ask the child on stage, and then get more answers from the audience.)

“Today, we’re going to have another chance to give to our missions offering for Sweet Sleep to help orphans get new beds. I want each of us to think about how we can give sacrificially this week for these orphans. Who can tell me what it means to sacrifice?”

** Note: If you have used this activity before, consider asking a child to share their story of sacrificial giving from a previous year – camp, VBS, etc. This concept of sacrificial giving is so crucial for children to learn, that it should be included in any missions giving project.*

(To give something for the sake of someone else.)

“This dollar could buy a coke, a candy bar, (some other things the kids mentioned). What I want to challenge us to do this week is to sacrifice so kids can sleep sweetly. If you were going to get a candy bar or a coke – consider going without those things so that orphans can have a place to sleep tonight. Let’s give our volunteer a round of applause. If you have your offering, you can bring it forward as soon as I pray. Let’s pray together.”

PRAY

Pray that God would help each of us be sacrificial givers – giving up things we want so that others can have the things they need.



“ SAY:

“You guys have been doing awesome collecting money for beds for orphans! Thank you for being so faithful to God by giving these offerings to Him. Today, I want to share with you what else your offerings will provide. When Sweet Sleep goes into an orphanage or village, not only do kids get brand new beds, but they also receive a Bible in their language! Raise your hand and tell me your favorite verse.”

(You may want to talk to a few kids beforehand to have their verse picked out and ready to read.)

“Can you imagine if you had never heard these verses before? What if you didn’t have a Bible to read and no one around you did either? Kids in these orphanages are so excited to get their new Bibles! Look at them reading so intently!” [pictures of kids with Bibles]

This is one of my favorite verses.”

Call a volunteer to read James 1:27. (put verse on screen if possible)

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.

“ SAY:

“God calls us to look after orphans and widows. There are lots of ways we can do that, and helping these

orphans get beds is such an important one. Let’s pray together and collect our offering.”

Pray with the kids. Ask God to help us understand our calling to minister to orphans and widows. Thank God for allowing you to be a part of His plan and for blessing each of us so we can be a blessing to those who need our help. Pray for the children who will receive the beds and Bibles you’ll raise the money for – pray that they will read them and understand what they read as they apply God’s Word to their lives.



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SAY:

“We have had a great week together! And it’s been really exciting to learn about the needs of orphaned and vulnerable children in Uganda and how we can help them get clean, comfortable new beds!”

(If parents are there and haven’t been the rest of the week, fill them in on what Sweet Sleep does; mentioning that you’re sure their sons and daughters have filled them in! Ask them to consider joining their

children in giving sacrificially so orphans can sleep sweetly. Mention how much our own beds cost – then ask parents to consider giving that much for orphans to get new beds – think how many beds that would provide – since a new bed for an orphan in Central Uganda is just \$140 and a bed for an orphan in northern Uganda is just \$70!)

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SAY:

“Today is the last day we’ll be collecting our missions offering at VBS. Let’s watch this video and see what the money we’ve given so far and the money we’ll

give today/ tonight will do for orphans in Uganda.”

Show the “Thank You” video.

COLLECT OFFERING

PRAY

Asking God to help each of us continue looking for ways to live out our James 1:27 calling to minister to orphans and widows.





For craft plans for pillowcases to decorate to remember to pray for orphans, and bookmarks to decorate and send to Sweet Sleep to give to kids getting their Bibles, download our Pajama JAM! project plans.

Since you are providing beds in Uganda, consider using the magazine bead craft plans provided in the Build-a-Bed resources. This will give kids a tangible item to take home to remember the kids you are helping through Build-A-Bed.

“PRAY THE NAMES” PRAYER ACTIVITY

Recruit 5 children to read aloud the names of children in Uganda. Distribute a note card to each volunteer with a Ugandan child’s name written on each: Esther, Prossy, Ezra, Samuel, and Isaac. Ask another volunteer to read Jeremiah 29:1: For I know the plans I have for you – Plans to prosper you not to harm you – to give you a future and hope.

“ SAY:

“This is reassuring to us, for our own lives, but it is also reassuring for us as we think about these children we’re helping this week. I’m going to begin our time of prayer and when I say, ‘For I know the plans God

has for...’ some of my friends will read the names of children in Uganda. Then I’ll close praying for the children we are helping this week. Let’s Pray.”

CAN YOU BUILD IT?

For a fun challenge, consider providing materials for your kids to try to build one of the beds you’ll be providing! Supplies could include wooden craft sticks, pieces of fabric, glue, poster board, construction paper, etc. You could also use Legos if you have a large supply. Give guidance if you are raising funds for bunk beds in Kampala, Uganda.



TELL THE STORY

Guide kids to create a flyer, poster or handout to explain the orphan crisis and the project you are raising funds for during your event. Encourage them to get friends and family involved in raising funds to help even more kids during the week's project or beyond!



UGANDAN MAGAZINE BEAD BRACELETS

PROVIDE

Magazines
Glue sticks (1 per child)
Straws (1 per child)
Scissors
Pencils
Rulers
Wax paper
Leather cord (1 per child) long enough to fit a child's wrist.

PREPARE

Pre-cut the strips by using the ruler and pencil to draw long triangle shapes on the magazine page. The strips should start the width of about an inch and get thinner and thinner in a long triangle shape. They should be at least as long as the height of the magazine page (about 11 inches). Set out glue sticks, straws, strips, and leather cord pieces. Tape a square of wax paper to the table in front of each child.

PLAN

Have the kids lay a strip (decorative side face-down) on the wax paper and coat one side of the strip with glue. Set the straw on the wide end of the strip. Holding either end of the straw, roll the strip tightly around the straw. Keep the paper centered as you roll. Keep rolling until the strip is completely wound—no “tail”. Cut away the straw on both sides of the bead. Have the kids thread the bead on the leather cord. They should tie a knot on each side of the bead (make sure the bead is centered) to hold it in place.

VARIATION

Have the kids make two or three beads on the straw instead of one. The child will need someone to tie it around his/her wrist when they are finished.

Dear Parents,

We are excited to be partnering with an orphan care ministry called Sweet Sleep! The mission of Sweet Sleep is to share God's love and hope in Christ to the world's orphaned and vulnerable children, improving their quality of life. Sweet Sleep fulfills that mission through Matthew 11:28: Come to me all who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.

Sweet Sleep believes True Rest that God desires in this scripture has three pillars: Physical Rest, Spiritual Rest, and Economic Rest. For 20 years, Sweet Sleep has been providing physical rest to orphaned and vulnerable children around the world through the provision of beds and mosquito nets. Over the years, they have provided more than 33,000 beds to kids in nine countries! Now, Sweet Sleep is focusing their work in Uganda.

To provide spiritual rest, every beneficiary of Sweet Sleep programs receives a Bible in their own language. In almost all communities where they work in Uganda, this is the first and only Bible in the entire community! They also share the gospel and teach beneficiaries how to learn, share, and teach Biblical truths through verbal Bible storytelling. Discipleship is at the core of everything they do.

The third pillar, economic rest, aims to equip and empower single mothers, grandmothers, and widows who care for the orphaned and vulnerable children in their communities through cooperative businesses and savings groups called CO•OPs. When you ask these vulnerable women about their childhood, the story is the same: "My mother died of HIV/AIDS and my father was an alcoholic. There was no one to pay my school fees so I went to the street to survive." When you empower these women to care for their children, the first thing they'll tell you is that they can pay school fees! They know that the only way to break the cycle of poverty is to educate their children. Then they tell you they can feed, clothe, provide medical care, and even purchase a bed for their kids!

Your children will be learning about vulnerable children in Uganda and how their contributions can radically change the lives of kids halfway around the world. We will collect an offering during our event, and we encourage your family to be prayerful for how God has called you to support this effort.

For more information about Sweet Sleep, visit sweetsleep.org. If you have any questions about our event, contact me at _____ .

Sincerely,

