



SCHEDULE

BRIEFING

In Uganda, orphaned, abandoned and vulnerable children go to sleep each night on the cold, hard ground, either because they simply have no bed in which to sleep, or because they have been displaced from their families – abandoned into the streets to care for themselves – and must sleep wherever they can find a place to lay their heads.

Sleeping in a parking lot can change lives. By participating in this Sweet Sleep Under the Stars lock-out event tonight, you will experience what the night is like for orphaned and abandoned children around the world who don't have a healthy, comfortable place to sleep or a family to care for them. As you prepare to sleep on the cold, hard ground, looking up at the stars, read the stories of young people just like you who are sleeping under the same sky – children who are praying that they will have a family to care for them and a bed to sleep in.





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EXPERIENCE GUIDE/PM

As you lay down tonight look at the stars, try to count them. God told Abraham to look and count them. God promised that his descendants would be like the stars.

Read Genesis 22:16-18.

GENESIS 22:16-18

"I swear by myself, declares the LORD, that because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies, and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me."

God tells us that we are the children of Abraham. Look up at the stars again. When Abraham looked at those stars you were counted in them. If you are one of his descendants then God is using you to bless all the nations of earth. Think about Uganda, what does it mean for you to be a blessing to the children of that nation?



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Think about Lydia, an orphan in Kampala, Uganda. **Here is her story:**

“As a young girl I lived homeless with my mother. Because my mother was not able to provide for me, I was forced to beg for money on the busy streets of Kampala. People would steal the money I had earned begging, and when I returned home empty-handed, I would be beaten. To eat, I would dig through the trash for scraps of food and because I had no water, I would drink my own urine. When I slept, I would find doorsteps to curl up in, under the stars, because I had no safe place to go.”

But now, because of supporters like you, Lydia has been rescued from this neglectful and abusive life. She is being cared for by a Christian couple who is showing God's great love for her. Now, when she lies down at night and says her prayers, it is in a Sweet Sleep bed, prayed over by a Christian couple who calls her their daughter. Lydia's story is just one of thousands. Thousands of children sleep with nothing more than what you will sleep with tonight. They sleep this way every night, with no blanket, no pillow, and no mattress. And for many, no parents to tuck them in at night. They have nothing to keep them warm, no family around them to give them comfort, and in Uganda, no nets to protect them from malaria carrying mosquitoes. What does it mean for you to be a blessing to these children?

In the New Testament, James the brother of Jesus writes to the church about what it means to live out your faith.





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.”

Think about your usual week, how much of your faith is focused on you and how much is focused on others? James shows us that our religion and our faith that is pleasing to God is focused on others, on those in need. James directly shows us that faith means that we should care for two groups, orphans and widows. Both of these groups were without support and care-giving in the early church. James’ statement is still true today we need to look out for the needy, the orphans and the widows. What would it look like for you to look out for the orphans?



SCHEDULE

Here is a letter from a widow named Couregrima who has received training to create her own business, and who can now care for her own children and extended family, because of the generosity of people like you through Sweet Sleep:

Dear Sweet Sleep,

My name is Couregrima. I care for my son, my nephew, and my elderly mother. I am HIV positive, and I am a widow. Before, I worked by washing clothes for others but because of my poor health, that was very difficult. HIV had left me without the energy needed for this kind of labor, and I was unable to provide for my family. But I was taught how to start my own business, and I was given the money to buy the materials I needed to get started. Now I make the spices used in restaurants to prepare food. I am able to sell them in the market and out of my home. Not only am I able to provide for my family, but I am also able to afford ARV drugs for my HIV treatment. So I again thank God for that special gift which I was not even expecting in my life and I do not forget to pray for you and also the organization called Sweet Sleep.

Thank you so much from Couregrima.

God Bless You.

Take some time now to pray to God. Think about what God has given you, about how God has blessed you. Thank God for all that He has done. Now pray for the children of Uganda. Ask for their protection and that they would hear about Jesus Christ. Now pray for yourself. Ask God to watch over you tonight. Ask Him to show you and teach you what it means to love Him.





SCHEDULE

QUIET TIME GUIDE/AM

Take a few minutes to think about what you learned last night. Now spend some time in prayer to thank God for what He has shown you and for all that He has done for you. It's through God's great blessing on us, that we are able to bless others. Through the support of people like you, God used Sweet Sleep to bless a woman in Uganda named Pasca. As a teenager, Pasca was severely burned during a rebel attack on her village, and she lost her entire family in the same fire. Without any support, every day was a struggle for survival for herself and her seven children. With Sweet Sleep's help, Pasca started her own business, and is now able to support herself and her children. The restoration in Pasca's life has served as a great example and inspiration to those around her. And as a result of her testimony, more than ten people in her community have accepted Christ. Pasca was blessed, and as a result, has been a great blessing to others.

Jesus taught in Matthew 25 about two groups of people in the world - sheep and goats. Jesus, while talking about heaven, said the sheep and goats would be separated. Read his teaching in Matthew 25:33-46:



STUDY GUIDE

JAMES 1:27

“He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left. Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.’ Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’ The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’ Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.’ They also will answer, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?’ He will reply, ‘I tell you the truth, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.’ Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.”



SCHEDULE

- Circle every time the words 'sheep' and 'goats' are used. Why do you think Jesus separated the two groups, the sheep and the goats?
- Which group does Jesus welcome into the kingdom? What did the sheep do? List the actions of the sheep.
 - Gave the hungry something to eat
 - Gave the...
 -
 -
 -
 -
- Did the sheep know that they were helping Jesus? If they did not know they were helping Jesus then why do you think made they did these things?
- Do you think God is more interested in the way you talk about Him or the way that you help others?
- List 3 ways have you been helped and cared for by others?
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
- How did that make you feel?
- What ways do you like to help others? What are some things you would like to do for the "least of these"?



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It takes just \$50 to provide a Sweet Sleep bed for a child in northern Uganda, and just \$140 to provide a Sweet Sleep bed for a child in an orphanage in Kampala, Uganda.

- How do you plan to help these orphaned and vulnerable children through Sweet Sleep? How many kids do you think you, with the help of your friends and family, can help?

Close your quiet time by praying. Thank God for the way that He and others have cared for you when you were in need. Share the things that are important to you from last night and this morning. Ask Him to show you ways to help the people who are least.