



**MOBILIZING STUDENTS.
CARING FOR ORPHANS.**

PAUSE CAMPAIGN LEADER GUIDE

SHOW  HOPE

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PREPARING YOUR HEART

Welcome to Pause Campaign, a seven-day social media fast where you and your group will study devotional content designed to educate students on the needs of children who have been orphaned, equipping them to impact the lives of waiting children today.

We appreciate your commitment to serve as a leader. By guiding students through Pause Campaign, you are helping equip them to become change-makers, not just in the future but today. Before jumping in, we encourage you to read through this guide as you prepare your heart to teach students about God's calling to care for orphans.

Spend time reflecting on what the Bible says about children who have been orphaned:

- + Psalm 68:5 says, **"Father of the fatherless and protector of widows is God in his holy habitation."** God is the great protector and loving Father of every child. He, who numbers the hairs on our head, will not turn away from children who have been orphaned, and this should inspire us to act.
- + James 1:27 states, **"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."** This verse is what leads us to believe that while not everyone is called to adopt, we are all called to do something to care for children who are vulnerable.
- + Isaiah 1:17 says, **"Learn to do good; seek justice, correct oppression; bring justice to the fatherless, plead the widow's cause."** Love and kindness are fundamental to God's character as we are shown in the Bible. That even one child does not know the love of a family should stir our hearts, and there are millions of children living with this reality.

- ✦ In his farewell to the Israelites, Moses leaves instructions from God. 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.”**
- ✦ In John 14:18, Jesus says, **“I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.”** This scripture brings great hope in the midst of confusion. Jesus assures his disciples that they will not be alone. Even when he is no longer physically present with them, they will receive the Holy Spirit. In the same way, God will not abandon his children.

Spend time in prayer, asking God to equip you to lead your group through Pause Campaign. Ask him to reveal his heart for orphans to you and your group members as you break from social media and work through the seven-day devotional. Pray that Pause Campaign will create a lasting impact on your group and for clarity on how God has uniquely gifted each of your participants to become actively involved in caring for children who have been orphaned.

Please let us know how the staff at Show Hope can be praying for you and your group. We consider it an honor to pray alongside you and are here to support you however we can. You can email prayer requests, questions, and additional needs to pause@showhope.org. We're here to help!

To help maximize the success and impact of Pause Campaign on your group, we recommend you familiarize yourself with the content by working through the Pause Campaign devotional before you launch your campaign.

Using Positive Language

It is important to approach conversations around adoption and orphan care thoughtfully and carefully. The manner in which we speak about adoption and orphan care can impact the perceptions of those around us. It is crucial that our words preserve, protect, and affirm the inherent worth and dignity of children and their families. Seek to use positive, people-first language whenever you approach these sensitive subjects.

Below are some examples of positive ways to talk about adoption and orphan care:

- + People-first language puts the person first and avoids using a label or an adjective to define someone. For example, say "a child with special needs" instead of "a special needs child."
- + Say "biological/birth parent" instead of "natural/real parent."
- + Say "intercountry adoption" versus "foreign adoption."
- + Say "make an adoption plan/choose adoption" instead of "give away/give up child."
- + Simply say "child" instead of "adopted child."

If you have questions or concerns as you lead conversations surrounding adoption and the needs of orphans, feel free to reach out to us at pause@showhope.org. (The Pause Campaign, College Edition includes an entire section on the use of people-first language, including additional information and tips.)

GETTING STARTED

At Show Hope, we strongly believe that students can make a difference in the lives of children who have been orphaned. In fact, Show Hope's beginnings can be traced back to the experience of a student—Emily Chapman Richards. Emily, who once served as Show Hope's Executive Director, first learned about the needs of orphans during a trip to Haiti when she was 11 years old. During this trip, a passion to do something that would make a difference in the lives of waiting children was born in her heart.

Emily and her family's faith journey eventually led to the adoption of her three sisters and also served as the catalyst to her parents, Mary Beth and Steven Curtis Chapman, founding Show Hope. Now, years later, the fire that first ignited in an 11-year-old's heart has gone on to impact the lives of thousands of children. We believe students of all ages can make an impact in the lives of waiting children by using their gifts and passions to make a difference.

Recruiting Students

Recruiting students to participate in Pause Campaign can be challenging. You can recruit students by inviting them to join your campaign by word of mouth, social media posts, text messages, or any other preferred method of communication. You can also use content from the "Media Materials" section of the [Pause Campaign Leader Resources](#) to help you create interest in the campaign. We would also be happy to provide posters or brochures (at no cost) to help you cultivate interest for your campaign.

You can invite your friends, classmates, small group or Bible study members, youth group, roommates, or other student groups to join you. Introduce Pause Campaign as a week-long devotional and educational resource designed to teach students about the needs of children who have been orphaned and equip them to make a

difference, all while pausing from their personal social media to engage in prayer and scripture.

Also, be sure to let students know the dates you will be leading, or present a few date options and ask students to decide which week works best according to their schedules.

Launch Party Tips

A great way to get your students excited about starting Pause Campaign is to host a launch party the day before your group dives into the devotional and educational materials.

Get creative with this initial meeting. You can host a pizza party, game night, or documentary showing. You may also invite a family in your community impacted by adoption or foster care to share their story with your group.

BEFORE YOU LAUNCH

Spend time planning what the week will look like before you launch Pause Campaign. We encourage you to draw on your own creativity and discretion as you walk through the week, keeping in mind the unique needs of your group and students.

Introduce Pause Campaign

Provide your group with an overview of Pause Campaign before your launch. Let them know that, as a group, you will be stepping away from social media for a week. Together, you'll use this time to work through a daily devotional and educational resource designed to teach on the needs of children who have been orphaned, equipping you to make a difference—not just in the future but today.

- + Not all students are active on social media. Encourage these students to consider stepping away from the thing or activity that is most likely to distract their attention away from the week of Pause Campaign. You can suggest they take time away from video games, TV/streaming services, music/podcasts, or other forms of media that may consume their time.

Introduce Show Hope

Use information from the "About Show Hope" section of this guide to provide your students with an overview of Show Hope's work.

- + Share this video in telling the Show Hope story.
 - » ["Let's SEE Where Hope Goes"](#)
- + Share personal stories of why caring for children who have been orphaned matters.
 - » Invite a family built through adoption to share their story with your group. If any of your students have any personal experiences with adoption and/or foster care, give them the opportunity to share if they feel comfortable (asking them privately, in advance).

LAUNCH PAUSE CAMPAIGN

- + In what ways could you invest possible available time away from distractions to bring good to yourself and others?
- + Encourage students to delete social media apps for the week in order to reduce temptation.
 - › Suggested Activity:
 - Have your students check their phones to get an idea of how much screen time they use each week.
 - For iPhone users: Go to Settings, then select Screen Time. Select "See All Activity" and navigate to the week view to see total screentime for the week.
 - For Android users: Go to Settings, then to Digital Wellbeing for an overview of your app usage.
 - Then, have your students calculate the amount of time they will have spent on their phones over the next 10 years based on their usage pattern of the past week—overall number of hours spent on their phones (or hours spent on specific apps) during the week x 520 [52 weeks a year x 10 years].
 - Reflection Questions:
 - How do you feel about the amount of time you spend on your phone each week? In what ways is it helpful, and in what ways does it distract you from other things you value?
 - What are your thoughts/feelings regarding the amount of time you are projected to spend on your phone over the next 10 years if you stay on track with your usage this past week? How much time do you feel is best for you?
 - Are there any ways in which you would like to be more intentional with your phone usage, whether it be the amount of time you spend on your phone or how you are using that time?
 - In what ways could you invest possible available time away from distractions to bring good to yourself and others?

- ✦ Encourage accountability and discussion among group members throughout the week:
 - Create a group text or chat using an app such as GroupMe to offer guidance and encouragement.
 - Serve as a resource for your students if they have questions or need support. We highly encourage you to participate with them.
 - Tip: Schedule a mid-week meeting during the campaign to gather, discuss the devotional, debrief, and pray.
- ✦ Send students off by reminding them that caring for children who have been orphaned is close to God's heart (James 1:27).

NEXT STEPS

+ **Wrap Up Campaign**

- › After completing the social media fast, regroup to celebrate the completion of Pause Campaign and debrief students' experiences.

+ **Call to Action**

- › Follow-up is not required but is strongly encouraged as a way to fellowship and grow together as a group, with each student having the opportunity to share what he or she learned and experienced with one another.
- › Present students with opportunities to apply what they've learned during their week away from social media. Here are some ideas:
 - Raise funds to help cover the cost of adoption. Your group can help a waiting child enter the love and protection of a family through adoption by helping provide a Show Hope Adoption Aid grant. The following are some ideas on how to make that happen:
 - Host a movie, game, or craft night and charge admission.
 - Hold a car wash or dog wash with a suggested donation.
 - Host a dodgeball tournament with an admission fee.
 - Hold a yard sale or bake sale or create a pop-up thrift shop.
 - Ask students to share their Pause Campaign experiences with the church congregation and request an offering as a donation to Show Hope.
 - Get creative in coming up with a fundraising idea of your own. Let us know what you dream up.
 - Set up your [team's fundraising page](#).
 - Have students consider becoming Pause Campaign leaders themselves.

- Students can lead their own campaigns for school, church, family, or friend groups.
- They can email pause@showhope.org to get started.
- Become an advocate.
 - Create a minute-long “elevator speech” about the needs of orphans that can be shared with others.
 - Speak up on behalf of the needs of waiting children. You really can make a difference!
- Pray.
 - Continue to lead your group in prayer for children in your community and across the world who have been orphaned.
 - Join us in asking God to bless the work of Show Hope and other advocacy and professional organizations providing important resources.
 - Pray for God to reveal how he is calling each student to get involved in making a difference in the lives of children who have been orphaned.
- Get involved.
 - Consider making an appointment with a caseworker from your local social services agency for your group to learn more about the needs of children in foster care in your community. They may also connect you with local organizations or ministries that are in need of volunteers.
- For additional next steps, encourage students to visit the Other Resources Page that can be found by scanning the QR code in their devotionals books.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

About Show Hope

Overview:

After having their own eyes and hearts opened to the needs of children who have been orphaned and being personally impacted by adoption, Mary Beth and Steven Curtis Chapman founded Show Hope in 2003. A faith-based nonprofit organization based in Franklin, Tennessee, Show Hope exists *to care for orphans by engaging the Church and reducing barriers to adoption.*

Every year, millions of people consider growing their family through adoption, but only a small percentage of those who consider adoption actually move forward. The financial barrier that exists within adoption is one of the main reasons for this. Through its cornerstone work, Adoption Aid, Show Hope has impacted more than 8,600 children from more than 60 countries, including the U.S., by awarding financial grants to families who are on the adoption journey. The original vision of Show Hope's Founders, Adoption Aid continues to impact thousands of children and families each year.

As a way to give back to the country that entrusted to them three beautiful daughters, the Chapmans longed to help care for children who had been orphaned specifically in the country of China. For nearly 15 years, Show Hope supported multiple Care Centers in China with an aim to provide care for children with acute medical and special needs—even building, furnishing, and supporting the flagship Care Center, Maria's Big House of Hope, named in honor of their daughter Maria who is now with Jesus. To date, more than 2,700 children have been impacted by Show Hope's involvement in the work of the Care Centers, and while its funding of the Care Centers in China no longer continues, each child who received care there is a testament to God's faithfulness and an expression of

hope through the Care Centers Legacy. Today, Show Hope remains committed to the Care Centers Legacy, staying connected to and resourcing the children and families impacted by this life-changing work.

When dreaming how to further a desire to address the medical needs of children, Mary Beth and Steven asked themselves, What if we could further journey with families, once adoption has been finalized, by offering Medical Care grants to help offset healthcare expenses? In their listening and hoping, the roots of the Show Hope tree grew deeper, and Medical Care grants unfolded in addressing head-on both the financial and medical barriers to adoption.

Many children impacted by adoption and/or foster care have experienced abuse, trauma, neglect, and/or early attachment injuries. Through its Pre+Post Adoption Support work, Show Hope provides practical teaching and resources to better equip parents, caregivers, church leaders, and professionals in order to help restore hope to children and families on the healing journey. To date, more than 138,000 families and individuals have been impacted by Show Hope's Hope for the Journey Conference as well as more than 2,000 Trust-Based Relational Intervention® (TBRI®) Practitioner Training scholarships have been awarded to professionals.

And with a focus on the future, Show Hope's Student Initiatives work aims to educate, empower, and mobilize today's students—and our next generation of leaders—to effectively care for and make a difference in the lives of children who have been orphaned ... not just tomorrow but today.

WHY SOCIAL MEDIA?

Your students may struggle with the idea of giving up social media for a whole week or have questions as to why stepping back from social media for seven days is beneficial. See below for some talking points on why we ask students to pause from their social media pages:

Our lives seem to be dominated by social media. Think about how you spend your spare time. Most of us scroll mindlessly for hours each day, dedicating much of our time to liking, subscribing, and sharing on a screen. Social media can be great—it enables connection and creative expression. But our time is incredibly valuable. What if we spent more of it bringing awareness to the 15 million children who have been orphaned?

Social media is not inherently bad or negative. In fact, it can be a great catalyst for change. We hope that Pause Campaign helps you consider ways in which you can use your social media pages as platforms to create awareness, help others, and impact change. Because of social media, the individual influence of students is greater today than ever before in history. Here's an opportunity to use that influence to really make a difference in the lives of others. Join us in seeing what is possible through Pause Campaign.

THANK YOU

Thank you for serving as a Pause Campaign leader. We hope you and your students were able to learn and grow together through your experience. We appreciate your choice to partner with Show Hope as you encouraged students to get involved in caring for orphans. Please let us know how we can support you in the future.

Now that you have completed Pause Campaign, please take a few minutes to share your experience with us. Email student testimonies, leader testimonies, and/or group photos to pause@showhope.org. We would love to feature your group on our social media pages!

We also greatly appreciate any feedback or new ideas you'd like to offer as we continue to develop our curriculum to help serve students and student leaders best. [Click here](#) to access the Pause Campaign feedback form.

Keep in touch! Follow us on [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#) or reach out anytime at pause@showhope.org.