PAUSE CAMPAIGN LEADER GUIDE: HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT GROUP
LIVING INTENTIONALLY
FOR THE SAKE OF OTHERS
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GETTING STARTED

Thank you for taking the initiative to lead students through Show Hope’s Pause Campaign. 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 a student—Emily Chapman Richards. Emily is the Executive Director of Show Hope, and first learned about the needs of orphans during a trip to Haiti when she was just 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, co-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 waiting 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.

This campaign is designed to teach students about the needs of orphans, how they can live intentionally for the sake of others, and about the work of Show Hope. You can use this guidebook to prepare yourself to successfully lead students through Pause Campaign. Our team at Show Hope is ready to answer any questions you may have, and support you in your efforts.

Thank you for getting involved in the orphan care movement.
ABOUT SHOW HOPE

Before you begin leading a Pause Campaign, it’s important to familiarize yourself with the mission and work of Show Hope.

Overview:
After being exposed to the needs of orphans and personally impacted by adoption, Mary Beth and Steven Curtis Chapman founded Show Hope in 2003. Show Hope is a faith-based nonprofit organization based in Franklin, TN. Our mission is to care for orphans by engaging the Church and reducing barriers to adoption.

Committed to the holistic care of waiting children around the world, Show Hope works in four key areas:

1. **Adoption Aid**: Show Hope awards Adoption Aid grants to help enable more children to enter loving families through 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 associated with adoption is one of the main reasons for this, and our grants help break down that barrier. Since its inception, Show Hope’s Adoption Aid grants have helped more than 6,200 children from more than 60 countries, including the U.S., come home to loving families through adoption.

2. **Care Centers**: Many children who have been orphaned live with serious medical needs. As we work to restore hope, we strive to help meet these needs by supporting Care Centers in China that provide loving, attentive care for children with acute medical and special needs. To date, more than 2,600 children have received care through Show Hope’s Care Centers in China.

3. **Pre+Post Adoption Support**: Many children impacted by
adoption or foster care have experienced abuse, trauma, neglect, and/or early attachment injuries. In order to continue to restore hope, we work to provide practical teaching and resources to better equip parents, caregivers, churches, educators, and professionals in this healing journey.

4. **Student Initiatives:** We believe in students’ passion for justice and love. Student Initiatives exist to develop leaders who will respond to God’s call to care for children who are waiting for families.

Show Hope’s life-changing work is made possible by the dedication and passion of our donors, sponsors, fundraisers, student leaders, and prayer partners. Thank you for joining in this work through Pause Campaign.
THE GLOBAL NEED

Show Hope seeks to aid the 15 million children in the world who have lost both of their parents. Many children who have been orphaned encounter significant early challenges like malnutrition, abuse, neglect, trauma, and/or unmet medical needs.

The implications of the needs of orphans are far-reaching. They cross international borders, racial divides, and economic classes. The scope of the issue can be staggering, leading many to wonder how and why this has happened. It impacts children from every walk of life, and something must be done about it.

Though this list is not exhaustive, here are five foundational roots of the problem:

1. **HIV/AIDS**
   Worldwide, there are millions of children under the age of 18 who have lost one or both parents to HIV/AIDS. Many children who have been orphaned are now also living with a positive HIV status.

2. **Poverty**
   Much of the world’s population lives on just a few dollars a day. This means that many people cannot afford to provide nutrition, shelter, and care for their children. Many children who become orphans are abandoned, not due to a lack of love, but through a lack of resources to care for their basic needs.

3. **Corruption**
   Corruption can sustain or exacerbate the challenges orphans face in many ways—be it through corrupt government officials or individuals who profit from the trafficking of vulnerable children. Countries that suffer from domestic unrest as a result
of corruption often close their borders to intercountry adoption, making it nearly impossible for children to receive the life-giving care they desperately need.

4. Difficult Adoption Process
The problem is made worse when children who have been orphaned are prevented from entering a family due to financial hurdles. That's why Show Hope works to provide Adoption Aid grants to help break down the financial barrier between waiting children and loving families. We believe that a lack of resources to cover the cost of adoption should never keep a child from the love of a family.

5. War
War contributes to children becoming orphaned in two major ways. First, many children lose their parents in the physical act of war, either through direct combat or indirect civilian fatalities. Second, countries torn apart by war—especially developing nations—are often hindered in their efforts to care for children who have been orphaned either before or during the conflict.

Although the reasons children are orphaned are broad and complex, there is hope. Because we believe that God calls each of us to care for orphans through the gifts he has given us, he will go before us in the effort.

Learn more about Show Hope’s Use of Statistics About Children Who Have Been Orphaned:
https://showhope.org/statistics-children-who-are-orphaned/

Learn more about the needs surrounding orphans:
https://showhope.org/need-in-orphan-care/
PREPARING YOUR HEART

We sincerely appreciate your commitment to serving as a Pause Campaign leader. By guiding students through Pause Campaign, you are helping them become difference-makers. Before jumping in, we encourage you to take some time to prepare your heart to teach students about God’s calling in our lives to care for waiting children.

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

+ God is the great protector and loving Father of every child who has been orphaned. 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 not turn away from children who have been orphaned, and this should inspire us to act.

+ Psalm 10:14 says, “But you do see, for you note mischief and vexation, that you may take it into your hands; to you the helpless commits himself; you have been 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 with this reality.

+ 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.” Isaiah 1:17 says, “learn to do good; seek justice, correct oppression; bring justice to the fatherless, plead the widow’s cause.” These verses are what lead us to believe that while not everyone is called to adopt, we are all called to do something to care for the needs of orphans.
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, it says, “I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.” This scripture brings great hope in the midst of the devastation. 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, Christ will not abandon his children.

Spend time in prayer, and ask the Lord to equip you to lead your group through Pause Campaign. Pray that he will reveal his heart for orphans to you and your group members as you break from social media and work through the Pause devotional. Pray that this campaign will create a lasting impact on your group, and for clarity on how God is calling each one of you 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 specifically. We are here to lift you up in prayer and support however we can. You can email prayer requests to pause@showhope.org.
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 and protect the inherent worth and dignity of children. 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 “child placed for adoption” rather than “unwanted child”

+ Say “intercountry adoption” versus “foreign adoption”

+ Say “make an adoption plan/choose adoption” instead of “give away/give up”

+ 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. It’s a learning process.
PAUSE CAMPAIGN OUTLINE

Pause Campaign will take your students through a week of study and intentional living for the sake of others. Below is a suggested outline you can use to walk your students through the campaign. However, we encourage you to draw on your own creativity and discretion as you walk through the campaign according to the unique structural needs of your group.

+ **Introduction to Pause:**
  Provide your group with an overview of Pause Campaign before you launch the campaign. 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, written to invite you into knowing and experiencing God in a new way as you learn.

+ **Preparation tips:**
  > If you are participating as a small group or Bible study within a church, announce to your congregation that you will be participating in Pause Campaign to encourage conversation within your church.
  > Show students the Pause Campaign Challenge videos, featuring Shaoey and Stevey Joy Chapman.
    - [https://showhope.wistia.com/medias/6263khs6u0](https://showhope.wistia.com/medias/6263khs6u0)
    - [https://showhope.wistia.com/medias/sqaeeekrvk4](https://showhope.wistia.com/medias/sqaeeekrvk4)
  > Not all students are active on social media. Encourage these students to consider stepping away from the thing or activity that could distract their attention during the week of Pause Campaign. You can encourage students to take time away from video games, Netflix/TV, music/podcasts, or other forms of media that may consume their time.
+ **Introduce Students to 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 videos to help tell Show Hope’s story:
    - Show Hope’s Story: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BgdiB4-5POA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BgdiB4-5POA)
    - Care Centers Overview: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DFbU7GV0HfE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DFbU7GV0HfE)
    - Adoption Story: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W81ZGqrfaM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W81ZGqrfaM)
  - Share personal stories of why caring for children who are waiting for families matters.
    - Invite a family built through adoption to share their story with your group.

+ **Launch Pause Campaign:**
  - Distribute Pause Campaign devotional booklets (one per participant).
  - Send your students the “Pause Profile Picture” JPG file to post on their accounts during their break from social media:
    - ![Pause Profile Picture](image)
  - Explain the structure of the campaign.
    - Pause is a seven-day social media fast to allow time for daily devotions, prayer, and reflection.
    - Tip: Encourage students to delete social media apps for the week in order to reduce temptation.
Encourage accountability and discussion among group members throughout the week.
- Serve as a resource for your students if they need encouragement or guidance. 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):
- Remind them that they can make a difference now. [https://showhope.wistia.com/medias/sa4cqizwzi?media_finished](https://showhope.wistia.com/medias/sa4cqizwzi?media_finished)
NEXT STEPS

+ **Wrap Up Campaign**
  - After completing the social media fast, regroup to celebrate the completion of the campaign and debrief students’ experiences.

+ **Call to Action**
  - Follow-up is not required, but is strongly recommended as a practical implementation of what your group learned and experienced during the week of Pause.
  - 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.
      - Ask students to share their Pause Campaign experiences with the church congregation and request offering as a donation to Show Hope.
      - Get creative and come up with a fundraising idea of your own. Let us know what you dream up.
      - Set up your team’s fundraising page: [https://fundraise.showhope.org/campaign/pause-campaign/c134282](https://fundraise.showhope.org/campaign/pause-campaign/c134282)
    - Encourage students to consider participating in a short-term trip to China.
· Travel with us to our flagship Care Center in Luoyang, China—Maria’s Big House of Hope—and experience firsthand what it means to learn more about God’s heart for orphans.
· Learn more: https://showhope.org/your-part/trips/student-global-training-trip/

♦ Have students consider becoming Pause leaders themselves.
  • Students can lead their own campaigns for their 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 the those in your community and across the world who have been orphaned.
    » Join us in asking God to bless the work of Show Hope.
    » 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.
THANK YOU

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

After 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 also greatly appreciate any feedback or new ideas you’d like to offer as we continue to develop our curriculum.

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.
ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Want to learn more about Show Hope and how you can help meet the needs of orphans? Here are some resources to help you dive deeper.

Books:
“Choosing to SEE” by Mary Beth Chapman

“Between Heaven and the Real World” by Steven Curtis Chapman

“The Connected Child” by Karyn Purvis, David R. Cross, and Wendy Lyons Sunshine

“Created To Connect: A Christian’s Guide to The Connected Child” by Dr. Karyn Purvis and Michael & Amy Monroe

“When Helping Hurts” by Steve Corbett and Brian Fikkert

“The House of Hope: God’s Love for the Abandoned Orphans of China” by Elisabeth Gifford

Films:
“The Drop Box” Dir. Brian Ivie
Below is an email template that may be used to notify parents of their student’s participation in Pause Campaign. Urge parents to support their students and encourage them as they pause from social media. In fact, parents can also join in the pause themselves!

“Dear Parents,

I am writing to tell you about an exciting campaign our youth group will be participating in—Show Hope’s Pause Campaign. Show Hope is a movement with a mission to care for orphans by engaging the Church and reducing barriers to adoption. Pause Campaign is a student initiative that will give us the opportunity to step back from social media, and create space to learn about God’s heart for orphans. Pause Campaign will run from (date) to (date), and we encourage you to support your student as they participate in the campaign! Ask them questions. Find out what they’re learning. Be their accountability partners. And if you’re up for the challenge, join us in pausing from your own social media for a week!

Here’s a short video from Show Hope’s co-founders, Mary Beth and Steven Curtis Chapman, to help you learn more about the campaign! https://showhope.wistia.com/medias/bxa8nrmhjau

If you have any questions, please let me know. You can also check out Show Hope’s website at showhope.org for more information.

Blessings,
(Your name)”
CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENT TEMPLATE

If you are participating in Pause Campaign as a youth group or small group, let your church know what you’re doing! Submit an announcement for your church’s bulletin or newsletter. See suggested template below:

“The youth group is excited to share with you about an opportunity they have been given to make a difference in the lives of children who have been orphaned. Show Hope—a faith-based nonprofit organization that seeks to care for orphans by engaging the Church and reducing barriers to adoption—has invited us to be part of their student initiative called Pause Campaign. During the campaign, our students will take a break from social media and learn how to live intentionally for the sake of others. If you are interested in learning more, ask our youth pastor for more information.”
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.
## Participant Sign Up

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