



DO LESS & LOVE MORE

Zoe 2014 Lenten Children's Calendar & Guide (ages 3-10)

WE INVITE YOU TO:

- Live into the foundational hope we are given in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, as you explore the stories of his ministry on earth
- Live into the ways we are called to follow his example in our daily lives
- Live into the fullness of love for God and neighbor as you "do less" of the ordinary stuff in your life to make room for this special season.

HOW IT WORKS

While this resource offers daily practices, feel free to make it your own as a family. You can do it daily, every other day, or set aside a section of time once a week. Download it to your phone, tablet, or laptop and keep it with you to use as it works best for your family. Parents and older children in the family can lead younger children. Be sure to add your own prayers to each day. Read over *What You Will Need* so you will have what you need wherever and whenever you spend this time together. Because of the diversity in ages, this resource does not explore the death of Jesus. We encourage families to use the storybook and your church worship and discipleship opportunities to read, pray, and reflect together in a way that is appropriate for the children in your family.

Every Sunday, you will place an offering in your special Zoe Offering Box. When Easter arrives, please send offering donations by making checks payable and sending to: Zoe Empowers, PO Box 28839, Raleigh, NC 27611 (*please include "Lent Calendar" in the memo line.*)

HOW ZOE HELPS

In our world, children are struggling alone in poverty because one or both parents are sick or have died of HIV/AIDS, disease, war, famine, and other causes. Zoe brings these children together into supportive groups and connects them to local resources, training and churches that empower them so that they can take care of themselves and their families after three years in the Zoe empowerment program.

- 1. Helping Children Be Connected:** When children first start the empowerment program, Zoe Empowers brings them together into a Working Group of 60-100 fellow orphans from their community. This group becomes like a new family, able to help one another in many ways. Zoe Empowers connects children to their community leaders, and helps them connect to God in their local church. Zoe social workers assist children in reuniting with relatives and siblings who may have left home.
- 2. Helping Children Be Healthy:** Zoe social workers teach children about ways to stay healthy, including boiling water before drinking, washing hands and dishes, and proper nutrition for a balanced diet. Zoe Empowers provides children with mosquito nets and blankets to keep them safe from insect-borne diseases. Children learn about the causes and prevention of diseases such as HIV/AIDS, and how to care for those who are infected.
- 3. Helping Children Be Prepared:** When children graduate after three years in the Zoe program, they are prepared to care for themselves and their younger siblings. They have secure, dependable sources of food and income. Through Zoe Empowers, children have access to micro-grants, vocational training, and business start-up materials. Working Groups will frequently reach out to assist other orphans in their villages.
- 4. Helping Children Be Secure:** Zoe social workers ensure children have a safe place to live, know about their rights, and are free from abuse and exploitation. Children learn skills such as farming and animal husbandry at monthly meetings. Zoe Empowers provides them with tools, seeds and farm animals so they can grow and raise their own food. When children need a home, Zoe Empowers provides the necessary materials and their peer Working Group assists in the construction.

WHERE ZOE HELPS

WHAT YOU WILL NEED

- Zoe Offering Bank
- *Children of God Storybook Bible* by Archbishop Desmond Tutu (\$4.27 as e-Book/Kindle)
- Basic Art Supplies
- Map of the World (online is fine)
- Access to www.zoeempowers.org

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

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Zoe 2014 Lenten Children's Calendar

Place Zoe offering box in central place in your home where you will see it each day. Talk about what it represents.

Draw a ♥ as you complete each activity.

MARCH 5

Write the words of Luke 10:27 on large paper and place it where you will see it. Say it together each day.

6

Read the *Law of Love*, p 82 in your Children of God storybook together. What is the most important rule?

7

Make up hand motions for Luke 10:27.

8

Say Luke 10:27 using your hand motions and without looking at the words!

9
Watch the *Do Less* video.* Put a nickel in your offering box for every stuffed animal in your room. How does this help you love like Jesus loves?

10
Read the story of *The Good Neighbor*, p. 80. Who showed love to his neighbor? How are you sharing love during Lent?

11
Yesterday's story tells us everyone is our neighbor. Read "Where Zoe Helps" on the first page. Find those countries on a map or globe.

12
Share God's love right where you are. Today find a cookie recipe to make for a neighbor near you and plan to bake them on Saturday.

13
Share God's love right where you are. Let the neighbor near you know you will be by this weekend with your surprise.

14
Share God's love right where you are. Make a card to go with your cookies.

15
Share God's love right where you are. Visit your neighbor with your special surprise over the weekend.

16
Watch the video *Grace's Story*.† Put a dime in your offering box for every teacher who helps you learn and grow.

17
Read *The Lost Sheep*, p. 86. What does this story tell you about God's love? How are you showing people that God loves and cares for them?

18
The Lost Sheep reminds us that God helps everyone. Read "How Zoe Helps: Part 1" on the first page. How long are children in the Zoe program?

19
Help someone right where you are. Contact your church and find a person from the prayer list to help. Pray for that person.

20
Help someone right where you are. Make a plan for how you will help the person you found. (Visit, phone call, card, etc.)

21
Help someone right where you are. Prepare and live out your plan over the weekend.

22
Help someone right where you are. Live out your plan over the weekend.

23
Watch the video *Charity's Story*.† Name five special friends. Put a quarter in your offering box for each one.

24
Read *Sharing God's Plan*, p. 100. How did God use Charity as God's hands and feet? How is God using you?

25
Read "How Zoe Helps: *Be Connected*." How many new friends do children make in their Working Groups?

26
Be God's hands and feet right where you are. Think of a special friend. Pray for him or her today.

27
Be God's hands and feet right where you are. Make a plan to do something for that special friend. (Visit, phone call, card, etc.)

28
Be God's hands and feet right where you are. Prepare and live out your plan over the weekend.

29
Be God's hands and feet right where you are. Live out your plan over the weekend.

30
Watch the video *Sarah's Story*. † Count the bars of soap in your home. Put 50 cents in your offering box for each one.

31
Read *Jesus Becomes a Servant*, p.106. How was Jesus a servant? How did God use Sarah to serve her family?
Continue to April

Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind and Love your neighbor as yourself.
– Luke 10:27



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* Do Less video can be found at at: <https://zoeempowers.org/resource/do-less-for-orphans-fundraiser/>.

† Charity, Grace, Vincent, Sarah and Eugenia's videos can be found at: <https://zoeempowers.org/resource/mission-moments-for-children/>.

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

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Draw a ♥ as you complete each activity.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		APRIL 1 Read "How Zoe Helps: <i>Be Healthy</i> " on page one. How do children learn to make their water safe to drink?	2 Be a servant right where you are. Make a list of four things that you can do to serve your family. Do the first thing today.	3 Be a servant right where you are. Look at your list of four things that you can do to serve your family. Do the second thing today.	4 Be a servant right where you are. Look at your list of four things that you can do to serve your family. Do the third thing today.	5 Be a servant right where you are. Look at your list of four things that you can do to serve your family. Do the last thing today.
6 Watch Vincent's story video. † Put a nickel in your offering box for each can of food in your home.	7 Read <i>Jesus Feeds the Crowd</i> , 88. How did the little boy serve and help Jesus?	8 Read "How ZOE Helps: <i>Be Prepared</i> ." What are children prepared to do when they have graduated from ZOE's program?	9 Share right where you are. Find a local ministry that helps people in need. List some ways that you can help them in the work.	10 Look at your list from yesterday. Pick one thing and plan to do it over the weekend.	11 Share right where you are. Live out your plan over the weekend.	12 Share right where you are. Live out your plan over the weekend.
Palm Sunday 13 Watch Eugenia's story video. † Place a quarter in your offering box for every door in your home.	14 Read <i>The Promise of a New Earth</i> , p. 122. How are God's dreams for Eugenia coming true? How are you helping God to make God's dreams come true?	15 Read "How Zoe Helps: <i>Be Secure</i> ." How does Zoe Empowers help children who do not have a place to live have the dream of a home?	16 Dream right where you are. Zoe Empowers helps children live their life dreams. What are your dreams for your life?	17 Dream right where you are. What do you think God's dream for your life looks like? What do you need to live God's dream for your life?	18 Dream right where you are. Write a prayer to help you remember your dream and God's dream for your life. Are they the same dreams?	19 Dream right where you are. Say your prayer again today.
Easter 20 Read <i>Jesus Is Alive</i> , p. 112. Count your offering and give thanks for the new life it will bring.						



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