



LEADER'S GUIDE

STEPS 1–4



Fuller Youth Institute

A SPECIAL NOTE FOR LEADERS



Welcome to the Philippines! Your Step Into My Shoes experience begins here. Your church is about to embark on a journey to discover your calling — together.

We are all called — to Jesus, to the Church, and to care for others. And we're called to take a next step, saying “yes” to Jesus each and every day. In particular, a primary outcome of Step Into My Shoes is to help young people and families take a next step to help release children globally from extreme poverty, in Jesus’ name.

We have built this Leader’s Guide to help make your job as easy as possible. You’ll find everything you need to guide your kids through this Step Into My Shoes curriculum: scripts for what to say, supply lists, video resources, photography and presentation slides.

We have geared this experience toward older elementary-aged kids and ministry groups of around 20-30. Step Into My Shoes can be scaled up for larger groups, but some adaptations may be necessary. Similarly, we encourage you to modify the language and pacing of each session based on the age of your group. We provide specific suggestions to adapt the curriculum for older and younger groups at StepIntoMyShoes.org/church-resources.

While we have done our best to anticipate any needs or questions that you may have during your journey, please contact us personally at step@compassion.com for additional assistance.

We hope your group enjoys discovering your calling alongside Jonas, Leah, Audrey Mae, Heugene, and Heunice.

They — and we — have been praying for you. May you hear Jesus’ words, “**follow me!**” and courageously live your calling, to the glory of God.

FREE CHURCH RESOURCES

All videos and presentation slides for Steps 1–4 are available at stepintomyshoes.org/church-resources.



JONAS



LEAH



AUDREY MAE



HEUGENE



HEUNICE

STEP ONE

CALLED TO FOLLOW JESUS



BIBLE FOCUS
MATTHEW 4:18–22



YOU WILL NEED

- Printed copies of the passport for each child OR half-sheets of blank paper for journaling
- A writing utensil per child
- This Step's video, "Meet Jonas," available at stepintomyshoes.org/church-resources, and a way to play and project it for the group
- This Step's presentation slides, available at stepintomyshoes.org/church-resources, and a way to project them for the group. Alternatively, you could print the images ahead of time for a smaller group.
- 1 lighter-colored flip-flop per family. These can be ordered in bulk for about \$1 each by searching "bulk white flip-flops" online. Stores like Old Navy, Walmart and Target often carry pairs for \$2–\$3 as well. Black or navy blue soles will not work for the activity.
- Multicolored permanent markers, enough for each child to write on their flip-flop
- **GAME SUPPLIES:** For each smaller group of 4–6 students, you'll need an empty food can, chalk (if you're playing outside on a paved surface), and rope or jump ropes (enough for each group to have 2). See game instructions for further details.



[0:00–0:05]

WELCOME!

LEADER

SAY: Welcome to [your church ministry]!
My name is _____, and I am so glad you're joining me here!



ACTIVITY

Divide the room into 2 groups quickly in some way (either halves of the room, or boys vs. girls, or January–June vs. July–December birthdays). Instruct the groups to move as far away as possible from each other (whatever is feasible in your space) while you position yourself in the middle of the room. Then invite each group to "call" out your name. Do this a few times to see who is louder — however long you can stand it!



TALK ABOUT IT

Transition back together, then ask:

SAY: Did you know that every single one of us is called? "Call" can mean a lot of things — we call people on the phone; we sometimes hear someone call someone else a name.

Or we call out across a noisy room like we just did. In the same way you called my name, Jesus is calling us. That's what we mean when we say we are "called."

And do you know what Jesus says when he calls us? "Hello? Is [your name] there?" Not quite. Let's find out together.



BIBLE FOCUS

MATTHEW 4:18–22



[0:06–0:18]



PICTURE/SLIDE: BIBLE FOCUS

LEADER

SAY: There's a story in the Bible of the first people Jesus ever called. Listen to what happens in Matthew 4:18–22. As you listen, imagine what the disciples were thinking and feeling.



PICTURE/SLIDE:

We know what real love is because Jesus gave up his life for us. So we also ought to give up our lives for our brothers and sisters.

1 John 3:16, NLT



PICTURE/SLIDE:

As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. “Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will send you out to fish for people.” At once they left their nets and followed him.



PICTURE/SLIDE:

Going on from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John. They were in a boat with their father Zebedee, preparing their nets. Jesus called them, and immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

Matthew 4:18–22, NIV

Now I'm going to give you a few moments to write a word or two in your passport that describes how the disciples might have felt when Jesus called them.

Pause for about 20 seconds.

Back to the first question — what does Jesus say when he calls us? Two words: ***“follow me.”***

We are ALL called by Jesus. And we are all called TO Jesus. Just like the disciples in the Bible, Jesus invites us to follow him. Every day. Wherever we are.



ACTIVITY

Divide kids into smaller groups with a leader, and set up the biblical reflection time.

SAY: Let's think a bit more about this story together for a minute. We're going to ask some questions that don't have one right answer. I want you to step into the shoes of the disciples and imagine what this was like for them.

LEADER NOTE: The wording of these questions is intentional and important. Wonder questions are a specific learning tool that invite kids to imagine themselves in the story without becoming preoccupied with telling you, the leader, the “right” answer. This can help connect the world of the Bible to their lives today, as they go where their imaginations are taking them rather than where we are directing.



BIBLE FOCUS CONT'D



[0:06–0:18]

MATTHEW 4:18–22



TALK ABOUT IT

Give kids time to discuss in their groups. You might choose to put the questions on a screen, ask them aloud one at a time, or print them out for leaders. They are also included in the passports.



PICTURE/SLIDE: (1 SLIDE PER QUESTION)

Q: I wonder why the disciples said “yes” to Jesus? I wonder if there were people who said “no”? If it were you, would you have said “yes” and followed? Why or why not?

Q: I wonder what the disciples liked most about Jesus once they knew him better?

Q: Do you think they ever regretted saying “yes” to Jesus? Why or why not?

Q: I wonder what was the hardest part about following Jesus? What about for you? What’s the hardest part about following Jesus for you today?

Transition out of wondering time.

SAY: You all had great ideas and thoughts about the Bible story. But you know, all of that was way back then. Bible-times were, like, FOREVER ago. I wonder what it looks like when we follow Jesus today?

Take answers from the group.

There are kids like you all over the world who love and follow Jesus. In a lot of ways, they are just like us. In some ways, their situations are different from ours. But the most important thing we have in common is that we all are following Jesus together.

Let’s travel together to the Philippines to meet Jonas, who follows Jesus too. As you watch, look for ways that Jonas follows Jesus in his everyday life.





PLAY VIDEO

MEET JONAS



[0:19–0:24]
VIDEO



 PICTURE/SLIDE: VIDEO TIME

 PICTURE/SLIDE:

WATCH VIDEO: "MEET JONAS"

In this video, kids will hear some basic information about the Philippines and they'll meet Jonas, age 10. They'll see concrete ways that Jonas follows Jesus, especially as he cares for his father, Pedro, who suffered a stroke a few years ago. As a heads-up for you, Jonas shares a neighborhood with Heugene and Heunice, twin brother and sister whom we will meet in Step Four.





PLAY VIDEO

DEBRIEF



[0:25–0:40]
DEBRIEF

PICTURE/SLIDE:

VIDEO DEBRIEF

LEADER NOTE: After each video in the curriculum, you may wish to begin by asking kids to talk about what they saw and heard. You can ask a couple of questions like: What did the street look like? What did the kids wear? Where did they go? What were the kids doing? What are their houses made out of? What furniture is in their homes? Then transition into the reflection questions for kids to write and share together.

LEADER

SAY: Before we talk together about what we saw, take a minute to write or draw in your passport your answers to these two questions:

PICTURE/SLIDE: (1 SLIDE PER QUESTION)

Q: What was your favorite part of Jonas' story?

Q: What is something that you wonder about Jonas' life in the Philippines?

Give kids 2-3 minutes to quietly answer in their passports. Next, have them break up into small groups (ideally with a leader) so everyone can talk.

Continue to encourage engagement with Jonas' story with a few more questions.

Stay in your groups and talk about this question:

PICTURE/SLIDE:

Q: What did you see that you have in common with Jonas?

Encourage the group to come up with as many points of commonality as you can think of — from wearing flip-flops in the warm weather to doing chores to attending school.

LEADER NOTE: This is a key question for the day, so lean into the kids' answers, encouraging them to brainstorm as many points of connection as they can, and affirming their responses. Once you've really had a chance to dive deep into this, continue to the next section, landing on our common call to love and follow Jesus — our biblical connection for this Step's session.

LEADER

SAY: One important thing we share in common with Jonas is that he loves and follows Jesus. What are some of the ways we saw Jonas following Jesus' call in the Philippines?

Take responses and affirm their answers.

We especially saw Jonas follow Jesus at home, where he helps out with chores and takes such good care of his dad. It can be hard at times to take care of a parent who isn't well. I wonder what that would be like, or if you've ever had to care for a parent too?

Do you think Jesus' first disciples ever thought following Jesus was hard? Can you maybe think of times in the Bible that show us that it was hard to follow Jesus?

Take responses and affirm their answers.

If kids can't think of anything, you might suggest that often Jesus did things that were different from what many people thought was "right" in his time and culture. He ate with certain kinds of people who were considered offensive, and he taught things that were unpopular with other religious leaders. He also walked miles and miles, teaching in different communities. All of that might have been hard — in different ways — for the men and women who followed him!

What about for us? Can we think of times when following Jesus can be hard?

Take responses and affirm their answers.

Earlier, we wondered together about why, when Jesus called, the disciples chose to say "yes," leave everything, and follow him. What about for us? Why do we choose to say "yes" to Jesus' call to follow him?

Following Jesus can be hard, even risky at times. We don't know exactly where Jesus will lead us. Some of the first disciples were hurt and even killed. As Jonas follows Jesus, his circumstances can be very challenging. As we say "yes" to Jesus' call to follow him, it can be hard and risky too.

But following Jesus can also be an adventure. It can be full of joy. And most of all, Jesus leads us to be who we were made to be and to care for the people around us, so they can know God's love too.



PRAYER REMINDER



[0:41–0:50]

LEADER

SAY: On our flip-flops, we're going to write the words *"follow me."*



ACTIVITY

Give each child one shoe, markers, and time to write. If you have time, you may wish to give them time to decorate this further, either now or later on. Also be sure they write their name somewhere on the shoe.

SAY: When we get home, we will each find a spot for our flip-flop, somewhere we'll see it every day. It will remind us that every day, Jesus calls to us — calls to me, calls to you — to *"follow me."*

And every day we can say "yes," just like Jonas does; just like so many kids all around the world do. And we can know that Jesus is leading us toward a life that turns out to be a bigger adventure than we imagined.



PRAY TOGETHER

Dear Jesus,

You have called us to follow you, wherever that leads. Would you help us to say "yes"? Would you help us to trust that following you is the most important choice we make and that you will lead us well? As we see our flip-flops every day, remind us, Jesus, that we are called by you to follow you.

In your name, Amen.



ACTIVITY:

KNOCK DOWN THE CAN



[0:51–1:00]

LEADER

SAY: At the end of the video, Jonas and his friends played a traditional Filipino game called Knock Down the Can, or Tumbang Preso [pronounced “toom-bong PRESS-oh”]. Let’s try it together!

LEADER NOTE: Like any new game, this can seem a bit complex, but once everyone gets rolling, it’s fast-paced, involves the whole group, and is a lot of fun. You might wish to teach a group of kids how to play ahead of time, then invite them to demonstrate while you talk through the rules, so kids can see it in action. Similarly, you can play a slower-paced practice round as you explain the rules rather than just reading the rules from the front. Then kids can learn by doing before taking over themselves.

DESCRIPTION & RULES OF THE GAME

1. SETUP: Divide kids into groups of 4–6 and make sure they take their flip-flops. Set down the can, then make a line about 10 feet away from it using either chalk (if you’re outside on a paved surface) or rope (jump ropes work nicely).

Create a circle around the can itself with chalk, rope, or a Hula-Hoop (so it holds its shape).

2. CHOOSE WHO WILL BE “IT”: The “It” will guard the tin can and try to tag throwers.

To choose the “It,” kids take turns flipping the can, trying to get it to land standing up. When players flip the can and it lands standing on one end, they are safe and not “It.” If the can lands on its side, the player waits until everyone has had a turn, then flips again. This continues until only one player hasn’t landed the can on its end. That person is “It.”

Players then stand behind the line, and the “It” stands on the other side of the circle around the can. The “It” signals the start of the game.

3. PLAY THE GAME: Players take turns throwing their flip-flop at the can, attempting to knock it down. If they succeed, they have to run, pick up their flip-flop, and get back across the line without getting tagged by the “It.”

Meanwhile, the “It” has to run and get the can and set it back upright in the circle before running to try to tag the player. If tagged, that thrower becomes “It” for the next round.

When players throw their flip-flops and do NOT hit the can, they run and stand by their flip-flop while the other players throw. If the can is hit while they wait, they also pick up their flip-flop and try to run back without being tagged.

If all players have missed and are near their flip-flops, they all try to pick up their flip-flops and run back to the line without getting tagged. The “It” cannot begin chasing a player until that player has picked up his or her flip-flop.

4. HOW THE GAME ENDS: Each round lasts until there is a new “It.” Then it’s a fresh start for all players. Play can end after any round, depending on how much time you have to play.

When you’re done playing, gather the group together and introduce the Family Toolkit that they get to take home. Be sure to open it and show them the virtual reality goggles they can use at home to view special 360-degree videos after each session. These videos take them a step closer to the kids we’re meeting by showing them more scenes from homes and communities, kids playing games like tumbang preso, and sometimes introducing other children. Plus there are family discussion cards that help reinforce today’s learning at home. Instruct kids to take one toolkit per family and share it with a parent or caregiver, taking care not to open it until they get home.

STEP TWO

CALLED TO BE THE CHURCH



BIBLE FOCUS
1 JOHN 3:16



YOU WILL NEED

- Printed copies of the passport for each child OR half-sheets of blank paper for journaling
- A writing utensil per child
- One ball of yarn or twine per small group. If you don't have preset small groups, provide one ball per 5-8 kids [preferably with a leader].
- This Step's video, "Meet Leah," available at stepintomyshoes.org/church-resources, and a way to play and project it for the group
- The "Welcome to the Family" song video, available at stepintomyshoes.org/church-resources, and a way to play and project it for the group
- This Step's presentation slides, available at stepintomyshoes.org/church-resources, and a way to project them for the group. Alternatively, you could print the images ahead of time for a smaller group.
- Prayer reminder art project template printed on cardstock [template available at stepintomyshoes.org/church-resources] and scissors if they are not precut [if it's appropriate for the age of the group]
- Glue
- Bucket of craft sand [1 per 15 kids]

LEADER NOTE: For Steps 2-4, we will dive into one theme passage: 1 John 3:16-18. We'll take just one verse at a time, but you may wish to encourage your group to memorize the whole thing starting this week.

We know what real love is because Jesus gave up his life for us. So we also ought to give up our lives for our brothers and sisters. If someone has enough money to live well and sees a brother or sister in need but shows no compassion — how can God's love be in that person? Dear children, let's not merely say that we love each other; let us show the truth by our actions.

1 John 3:16-18, NLT



LEADER

SAY: Welcome to [your church ministry]! My name is _____, and it's great to be with you all today! If you weren't here last Step, we are in a series called Step Into My Shoes, where we meet kids from across the world, in the Philippines, who are following Jesus, just like we want to do. In so many ways we're the same, and in some ways our situations are different; but we are connected by our love for Jesus.



ACTIVITY

Divide the kids into smaller groups of 5-8 and give each circle a ball of yarn or twine. Then explain the game.

SAY: Whoever is holding the ball of yarn, raise your hand. You'll start by naming something you really enjoy doing. Maybe it's a sport you play, a game you like, a show you watch, or a band you listen to. Just name something you like to do!

Everyone else: If you like that same thing, raise your hand.

Person with the ball: Hold onto the end of the yarn. Then, STILL HOLDING the end, toss the ball to someone else in the group with their hand up. When possible, try to throw it to someone who hasn't yet had as many chances to catch the yarn.

Now, new person with the ball, name something new that you love doing, and anyone else who likes it too, hands up. Be sure to hold onto your part of the yarn before throwing the ball. Keep going until I say stop or you run out of yarn.



You may need an adult or two to demonstrate first, especially with a younger group. Groups will keep repeating this pattern — share a new thing you enjoy, hold onto the piece of yarn, and toss the rest of the ball to someone who also enjoys what they mentioned. It's fine if kids are holding multiple threads as the activity goes on.

Look at the web we formed of things we all love to do! The things we love in common connect us together, just like the threads of yarn physically connect us right now.

Last Step we learned that we are called to Jesus and that Jesus says, ***“follow me.”*** We don't always realize it, but as we follow Jesus, we don't do it alone. Instead, we are connected — by our love for Jesus — to all the other Jesus-followers. One way the Bible talks about these other Jesus-followers is as a family.

Distribute passports and writing utensils as kids and leaders are seated.



BIBLE FOCUS

1 JOHN 3:16



[0:11–0:20]

LEADER



PICTURE/SLIDE: BIBLE FOCUS

SAY: Let's look at what the Bible says about the family of God.



PICTURE/SLIDE:

We know what real love is because Jesus gave up his life for us. So we also ought to give up our lives for our brothers and sisters.

1 John 3:16, NLT



TALK ABOUT IT

Give kids time to discuss in their groups. You might choose to put the questions on a screen, ask them aloud one at a time, or print them out for leaders. They are also included in the passports.



PICTURE/SLIDE: (ONE SLIDE PER QUESTION)

Q: Who are our brothers and sisters in this verse?

Q: If we are family to each other because of Jesus, how should we respond to and treat each other?

Q: Do we only have to do those things for the people we like the most or who live the closest to us? Why or why not?

Q: The Bible puts it this way: "give up our lives." What do you think that might look like for us? How far does God really want us to go here?

LEADER

SAY: We always follow Jesus with others. We aren't following alone; we do it together. We call that group of Jesus-followers the Church. And as we've said, it's also a family.

Take a minute to write or draw what you like about our church family.

Give kids a minute or two to do this quietly, then invite a few to share.

But God's family isn't just here in OUR church. Members of God's family live all over the world! That means we're connected to other Jesus-followers here, in our town, and around the globe. It's kind of overwhelming sometimes to think about how big our family really is when we look at it that way.

Speaking of which, let's travel together to the Philippines to meet Leah, who follows Jesus and who is part of a great church in her community, Alegria [pronounced "ah-lay-GREE-uh"].

Be on the lookout in the video for what it means to be the church. We'll talk about that afterward.



PLAY VIDEO

MEET LEAH



[0:21–0:25]
VIDEO



 PICTURE/SLIDE: VIDEO TIME

 PICTURE/SLIDE:

WATCH VIDEO: "MEET LEAH"

In this video, kids will meet Leah, age 12, who lives right on the ocean, on the island of Cebu. Leah and her family are very connected to their church community, and the love of God's family is a major support not only for them, but also for their entire town.

Note that the video mentions a Compassion Child Development Center. All Child Development Centers are ministries of local churches run by local leaders within each community in the 25 countries in which Compassion serves. This church partnership is the way children and families are supported through the work of Compassion's sponsorship program. Compassion's church-based Child Development Centers represent a long-term, holistic commitment to fighting extreme poverty. For more information, please visit compassion.com/how-we-work/project-overview.htm.





PLAY VIDEO

DEBRIEF



[0:26–0:34]
DEBRIEF

PICTURE/SLIDE:

VIDEO DEBRIEF

LEADER NOTE: After the video in the curriculum, you may wish to begin by asking kids to talk about what they saw and heard. You can ask a couple of questions like: What did the street look like? What did the kids wear? Where did they go? What were the kids doing? What are their houses made out of? What furniture is in their homes? Then transition into the reflection activity about being the church.

LEADER

SAY: Now write down or draw a few ways you saw Leah's church being the church together.

Give kids a few moments to write before moving on.

Leah's church family helps her follow Jesus. We often talk about "church" as a place to go to worship and learn. That's part of what it means to be the Church, but being the church is also much more than that. It also means being sent out to serve and love the world around us. Let's check out how Leah and her church do that together where they live. I'm going to show you some pictures from their community, and before I tell you what the church is doing, you'll try to guess.

PICTURE/SLIDE: MANGROVES

SAY: These are mangroves, a plant that is especially important for protecting the coastline. Do you have a guess what mangroves have to do with being the church?

Take answers.

In Alegria, being the church includes planting mangroves along the beach to help preserve the coastline and restore trees that have been cut down; the Philippines has lost over half of its mangroves over the past few decades! This is a project the older kids and teenagers did together recently.

PICTURE/SLIDE: NEIGHBORHOOD

SAY: This is a neighborhood near the church. Do you have a guess how the church could be helping here?

Take answers.

Being the church includes cleaning up trash — a problem in their community and here in ours.

PICTURE/SLIDE: HOMES ON MOUNTAINS

SAY: There are people who live way up in the mountains, where it's hard to find what you need. Those villages can be a half-day's walk away, and some people are unable to make the journey. Can you guess how Alegria is the church to these families?

Take answers.

Being the church includes taking food and offering medical care to these families. What do you think you would do if you needed the doctor but their office was 4 hours away, and you didn't have a car? Or if you ran out of food?

Take answers. Try to stretch their thinking about their answers by following up with "what if"–style exceptions. For example, if a student says, "I'd just use the neighbor's car," you could respond by asking, "What if none of your neighbors own cars?"

PICTURE/SLIDE: CHURCH SCENE

SAY: Leah's church follows Jesus by worshiping together, studying Scripture together, and by looking for ways to meet all kinds of needs in the church family. And that means it takes all kinds of skills, all kinds of work, all kinds of ideas, all kinds of ages and sizes of people. When Jesus calls us a family, I think that's what he has in mind. When we do these kinds of things for our brothers and sisters near and far, that is the church.



PRAYER REMINDER



[0:35–0:47]

LEADER

SAY: We've explored how Alegria church is a family to each other. What about here at [your church/program name]? Can we think of ways that we are being the church for each other? What does that look like right now?

What about in the future? What could we do to help meet the needs of people in our church? Or to take care of God's world?

What about you or your family? What is one way Jesus might be calling you to be the church? I'm going to give you just a minute of quiet to ask Jesus, "How would you like me to help be the church?"



ACTIVITY

Provide a moment of quiet here, perhaps with calm music as an underscore. Your group may be in a place where you can then ask kids what they heard from God, or you may wish to simply close the time with an encouragement like, "As we follow Jesus, he calls us to be in his family and love his family, both near and far. Keep asking Jesus what he'd like you to do as we create a prayer reminder to take home today."

Follow this by distributing craft supplies.

DIRECTIONS:

- Give each student a foot template.
- They will put glue onto the page wherever they'd like sand to stick. Perhaps they want the key words in sand, or to leave the words blank and cover the rest.
- The simplest form of this project is to invite kids (once the glue is finished) to dunk the whole paper into the sand bucket. Sand will stick to the glue and slide off the rest. Craft sand comes in many colors, so get creative! Smaller groups may have the ability to offer multiple colors of sand and let kids pour each color onto their page in specific spots, dumping the rest back into the bucket.
- Encourage kids to name, specifically, where they'll keep their foot this week so they can remember to be the church.





BE THE
CHURCH

SING TOGETHER:

WELCOME TO THE FAMILY



[0:48–1:00]

LEADER

SAY: When Leah's church gathers to worship God on Sundays, they take time to greet each other and anyone who is new to their church family. While they do this, they also sing a song together, and we're going to learn it too. We'll sing together as a reminder that even as we're leaving, we're still a family!

In this video, kids will learn the song "**Welcome to the Family**," and then be invited to sing aloud, along with Leah's church, as they welcome one another.

Afterward, close in prayer together:



PRAY TOGETHER

Dear God,

As we follow you, you give us a family all over the world. We get to be brothers and sisters with everyone who follows you. Remind us this week, every time we see our footprints, that you call us to be the Church for each other, near and far. Remind us that Leah and kids just like her are our sisters and brothers, so that we can treat each other with the same kind of love Jesus offers us.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

LEADER NOTE: Make sure students take home their footprint reminders, passports, and a Family Toolkit for anyone who missed the Step One. Remind everyone to watch the virtual reality videos of Leah and the Alegria church and community at home!



STEP THREE

CALLED TO CARE FOR OTHERS



BIBLE FOCUS
1 JOHN 3:17



YOU WILL NEED

- Printed copies of the passport for each child OR half-sheets of blank paper for journaling
 - A writing utensil per child
 - This Step's video, "Meet Audrey Mae," available at stepintomyshoes.org/church-resources, and a way to play and project it for the group
 - This Step's presentation slides, available at stepintomyshoes.org/church-resources, and a way to project them for the group
 - Supplies for take-home prayer reminder: Bottle Cap Memory. Directions to make the memory game can be found here: stepintomyshoes.org/church-resources
- + Glue for the group to use
 - + Masking tape
 - + Markers

Supplies Needed per Child:

- 16 recycled plastic bottle caps — ideally all the same size and color. (If you end up with clear caps, the kids can color in the tops so they can't see through the caps. You can also do this with 8 caps instead.) Alternatively, these can be sourced online; for example, in an Amazon.com search for "plastic soda bottle caps."
- 4 small stones*
- A handful of sand or dirt*
- 4 small leaves*
- 4 small twigs*
- Plastic zipper bag

OPTIONAL

If you cannot make the Memory Game, you could substitute the activity by making trash bag jump ropes instead: stepintomyshoes.org/church-resources

NOTE: THIS ACTIVITY WILL LIKELY REQUIRE MORE TIME. Alternatively, you may want to gather random bits of different kinds of trash ahead of time (avoid anything involving food; cardboard boxes and plastics work great). Separate students into small teams to see what they can think of to create out of their trash within a brief time limit. Make sure to give them rolls of masking tape to hold things together. Then let them present their creations — a game, a toy, something useful, something artistic — to the rest of the group.

* We highly recommend you go out and find these items together, whether that's during the lesson or ahead of time in some way. The process of searching for the items to make the game will bolster the lesson.



LEADER

SAY: Welcome to [your church ministry]!

My name is _____, and it's great to be with you all today! We are in a series called Step Into My Shoes, where we are learning what it means to follow Jesus together.

We are meeting kids like us from the Philippines, and learning from them how we can live out our own calling to follow Jesus. In many ways, the kids we've met are just like us — they go to school and have favorite subjects. They play with their friends. They help their families at home.

But in some ways, the kids we've met are in different situations from many of us. Many of them face challenges in their day-to-day lives because they live in extreme poverty.

Q: Can someone tell me what it means to be poor or live in poverty?

Take answers, then say:

Yes, someone is in poverty if they lack something they need. This might be something we can see and touch — like food, water, clothing, or shelter. This might be something we cannot see or touch — like hope, opportunity, or love. Poverty can look many different ways. For the kids we've met in the Philippines, extreme poverty is a very real part of their day-to-day lives.

LEADER NOTE: You may want to think through how to lead this section given the socioeconomic realities of kids in your group. It may be that some of them also experience the effects of poverty, or the threat of poverty. Many families in the US live on the edge of housing instability and food instability, and kids are deeply impacted. Be appropriately sensitive with this discussion in your context.



ACTIVITY

SAY: In your passports, find the page that asks: What do we need? Circle everything you find that we all need to have.

These children we've met from the Philippines who live in poverty have less than we do, but they aren't less than we are. This is VERY important to remember!

Can you say that with me? They have less than we do, but they aren't less than we are.

They are smart, creative, fun, and loving, just like you. Today we're going to meet Audrey Mae and learn about her family and her community.



PLAY VIDEO

MEET AUDREY MAE



(0:08–0:13)
VIDEO



PICTURE/SLIDE: VIDEO TIME



PICTURE/SLIDE:

WATCH VIDEO: "MEET AUDREY MAE"

Our video in Step One with Jonas showed how a child in the Philippines lives out his call to follow Christ. Our second video with Leah showed how a church lives their calling to each other and to the local community. This video focuses on our call to care for those in need with loving action, and will teach kids more about what poverty is like for people living in Payatas in the Philippines, and other communities like it.

In this video, kids will meet Audrey Mae, age 8. In addition to seeing where Audrey Mae goes to school, they'll learn that Audrey Mae's community struggles with poverty.

Located below a large garbage dump, many people, including Audrey Mae's grandmother, earn their income by scavenging for recyclables and items to sell in secondhand stores. Audrey Mae's pastor shares about his vision for the community — to be full of hope — and Audrey Mae is one example of that. Her family, Child Development Center leaders, church, and Compassion sponsor are all cheering for her and her dreams for the future.



PLAY VIDEO

DEBRIEF



(0:14–0:35)
DEBRIEF



PICTURE/SLIDE:

VIDEO DEBRIEF & CRAFT

LEADER NOTE: After the video, you may wish to begin by asking kids to talk about what they saw and heard. You can ask a couple of questions like: What did the street look like? What did the kids wear? Where did they go? What were the kids doing? What are their houses made out of? What furniture is in their homes? Then transition into the reflection questions for kids to write and share together.

Give kids time to discuss in smaller groups. You might choose to put the questions on a screen, ask them aloud one at a time, or print them out for leaders. They are also included in the passports.



PICTURE/SLIDE: (1 SLIDE PER QUESTION)

Q: What did you notice in Audrey Mae's story?

Invite the kids to draw a picture below of something that stuck out to you in Audrey Mae's story. (included in passport)

Q: What is something that you wonder about Audrey Mae's life in the Philippines?

LEADER

SAY: Audrey Mae's pastor shared how people in poverty need to know the hope of Jesus. That's true! But can we think about a question together? If someone knows Jesus, but they are experiencing material poverty, do they have what they need? Why or why not?

Take answers, then continue.

Jesus is enough for our salvation — or being made right with God — but we also need things like water, food, clothing, shelter — and things like relationships, love, and education.



ACTIVITY

SAY: Audrey Mae wants to care for people in her community by becoming a doctor. What are some other kinds of work that give care and compassion to other people? Think both about jobs people might do for pay, and service or volunteer work people might do for free.

Q: Can you name some people who do some of those kinds of work in our community?

Transition to making the recycled craft.

Right now, we get to make something fun from an unusual material — trash. For kids who live in poverty, their toys are unlikely to be new from a toy store or delivered by Amazon. Instead, they might be passed along, found and cleaned, or homemade from what is available, including things that have been thrown out or found at the dump. Look at these ideas from kids in other locations:



PICTURE/SLIDE: TOYS FROM THE TRASH

Create the Bottle Cap Memory games together, or one of the other recycled craft ideas from the You Will Need section. Have each child set their caps somewhere to dry, marking them with their name on masking tape. Then debrief the game by asking a few questions.

LEADER

OPTIONAL, IF YOU SEARCHED FOR TRASH TOGETHER:

Q: What was it like to find trash and things we find outside to make a game? What did you like? What was frustrating or disappointing?

Q: Have any of you ever made something out of stuff like this before? What's different about these kinds of games and toys from the kind we buy in stores?

Q: What other ideas can you think of to make useful or fun things out of trash or natural materials?



BIBLE FOCUS

1 JOHN 3:16-17



[0:36–0:48]

LEADER



PICTURE/SLIDE: BIBLE FOCUS

SAY: We are learning some verses about what it looks like to follow Jesus together, from the book of 1 John. Last Step we talked about verse 16:



PICTURE/SLIDE:

We know what real love is because Jesus gave up his life for us. So we also ought to give up our lives for our brothers and sisters.

The passage goes on to say in verse 17:



PICTURE/SLIDE:

If someone has enough money to live well and sees a brother or sister in need but shows no compassion — how can God's love be in that person?

LEADER'S NOTE: Six questions may be a lot depending on the age and engagement level of your group, so you may want to facilitate these questions quickly, or simply choose to share about a couple of them yourself rather than asking all of the questions.

Let's explore this verse a little more deeply:

Q: Who is this verse speaking to?

Q: Who in our world today “has enough money to live well”?

Q: When the verse says we might see “a brother or sister in need,” who could that be in our world today?

Q: What does compassion mean?

Q: What might Jesus want us to say to or do for the “brother or sister” in this verse?

Q: Why do you think John — the author — is connecting loving God with caring for other people's needs? Can you think of other ways the Bible talks about this connection?

Depending on the age and Bible knowledge of your group, they may think of story examples or they may think of what's known as the “Great Commandment” — to love God and love others. In Luke 10:25-37, Jesus links this commandment with a story about a stranger — who is also a religious and ethnic minority — who shows mercy and cares for a Jew who has been badly injured, even though he's a total stranger and even an enemy. Jesus seems to indicate that by loving others, we love God. In other words, showing compassion to others is one way we show love to God.



RESPONDING TOGETHER



(0:49–0:55)

LEADER

SAY: Sometimes God makes it so that a certain kind of need is particularly touching to our hearts. People call this “their cause.” They talk about finding “their cause.” But what the verse reminds us is that when we follow Jesus together, our cause is not a what — it’s a who.

The love of God in us prompts us to care for people in need. People like Audrey Mae and her family, people like Leah, her family and her church; people like Jonas and his father. As we follow Jesus’ call together, we discover that it is a call to care. And we don’t care for a “cause,” we care for people — real people, with real names, faces, and stories, just like you and just like Audrey Mae.

In your passports, fill in the blank to finish the sentence: Our cause is not a ___[what]___, it’s a ___[who]___.

Let’s take a few moments right now to think about the “who” for each of us. The real people we know, or we have seen and heard about, who have real needs. They might live close by, or they might live somewhere far away.

LEADER

Q: Who are they? In your passports, write down or draw some of those people or groups.

Q: What needs do they have? Remember that we have needs we can see and touch but also invisible needs like safety, love, play, and hope.

Q: Write or draw a few ideas about how you — or we together — might care for real needs they have.

LEADER NOTE: It might be helpful at this point to name some of the “who” your church cares for right now. Maybe you have particular global and local ministries you support. Perhaps there are specific people your students can think of who they’ve met or been introduced to before. If you or a family you know sponsor a child through Compassion, you could mention that child as a specific example of “who.”





PRAYER REMINDER & CLOSING PRAYER



{0:56–1:00}

Invite the kids to collect their Memory Game pieces, and give each child a plastic zipper bag to put the pieces in. Make sure they put their names on the bags in order to take the game home.

Then close by saying:

LEADER

SAY: We want to remember the people we wrote down, the people we've met in the Philippines, and others like them who are experiencing extreme poverty. And we want to pray for them whenever they come to mind, so we're going to take our game made from trash home and keep it somewhere we'll use it, or a place we will see each day.

Hold one piece of your Memory Game in your hand and let's pray:

Dear God,

You love us all so dearly, enough to lay down your life for us. When you call us to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters, both near and far, we want to say "yes." When we see our brothers and sisters without enough of what they need, we want to have compassion and care for them. As we play with our games this week, lead us to follow you and to care for others more and more.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

If you have more time, spend a few minutes playing the game together.

Also make sure all students take home their passports, and give a Family Toolkit to anyone who missed the first and second sessions. Remind everyone to watch the virtual reality videos of Audrey Mae and her community at home!



STEP FOUR

CALLED TO TAKE A NEXT STEP



BIBLE FOCUS
1 JOHN 3:18



[0:00–0:01]

WELCOME!

LEADER

SAY: Welcome to [your church ministry]!

My name is _____, and it's great to be with you all today! We are in a series called Step Into My Shoes, where we are learning what it means to follow Jesus together. We are meeting kids like us from the Philippines, and learning from them how we can live out our own calling to follow Jesus.

YOU WILL NEED

- Printed copies of the passport for each child OR half-sheets of blank paper for journaling
- A writing utensil per child
- This Step's video, "Meet Heugene & Heunice," available at stepintomyshoes.org/church-resources, and a way to play and project it for the group
- This Step's presentation slides, available at stepintomyshoes.org/church-resources, and a way to project them for the group
- Bottle of water
- Ball (any kind that can be tossed to another person easily)
- Pen and paper
- Brown grocery bag or place to hide the 3 items above
- LEGO box set (optional)

LEADER NOTE: Please consider ahead of time how you will want to lead the "Next Step" section of this Step, especially how to suggest other possible next steps appropriate for the kids and families in your context. We encourage you to help kids think about putting love into action both near and far, perhaps through a partnership your church already has in place. Families will have the chance to learn about Compassion's sponsorship program at home this week, and you may wish to share your own story about the power of being a sponsor during the "Next Step" section.



BIBLE FOCUS

1 JOHN 3:18



[0:02–0:20]

LEADER



PICTURE/SLIDE: BIBLE FOCUS

SAY: We are exploring some verses about what it looks like to follow Jesus together, from the book of 1 John.

So far, we talked about verse 16:

We know what real love is because Jesus gave up his life for us. So we also ought to give up our lives for our brothers and sisters.

Then we talked about verse 17:

If someone has enough money to live well and sees a brother or sister in need but shows no compassion — how can God’s love be in that person?



PICTURE/SLIDE:

Today we’re diving into the final part of the passage. 1 John 3:18 says,

Dear children, let’s not merely say that we love each other; let us show the truth by our actions.

Say that last part with me again: ***Let us show the truth by our actions.***

Now I need 3 people to come up and help me, please.



ACTIVITY

This activity is designed to help kids think about the limitations of words alone by creating scenarios in which it is impossible to help someone without actions. Holding this tension is important — you will be asking volunteers to do something impossible each time, which will be a bit confusing, frustrating, and probably funny.

You’ll need a bottle of water, a ball, and a pen and paper. Pull out the water bottle, but keep the other objects hidden in a brown bag or other location to start. Note: You may want to prep another adult or teenager ahead of time to play the scripted role below rather than doing so yourself. Either way, you’ll ask 3 children to participate in the interaction.





BIBLE FOCUS CONT'D



[0:02–0:20]

1 JOHN 3:18



ACTIVITY CONTINUED

Invite 1 of the kids to step forward.

SAY: Could you help me with something? I'm so super thirsty, and I could use a drink.

Child will likely reach for the bottle, which is when you stop them and say:

SAY: Oh, no, sorry! I forgot to mention that part — you can only use your words. Could you just use words to get me that drink?

Spend a minute trying to navigate this new restriction with the child. You could play up your thirst in a humorous way, "I'm just parched!" "Man! If only someone could help me with that water!" Then have the child return to their seat.

SAY: Well, I'm still thirsty, but I can distract myself with a game. Hey [child two], want to play a game with me?

Pull out the ball.

SAY: Let's just play some catch — that'll help me forget how thirsty I am!

Start to motion to toss the ball to them, then stop before you throw it to say, in a simple, matter-of-fact tone:

SAY: Oh yeah, you'll need to just use your words, too.

Then toss them the ball [gently, of course]. They may catch it reflexively too. You can play that up: "No! Not with your arms, just your words. We're playing catch with our words!" Attempt to play catch for a minute, then send them to their seat. Pull out the pen and paper.

SAY: I was really hoping a game would help me feel better, but it didn't work. I know! A kind note would really cheer me up now. [Child three], would you write me a note to cheer me up?

Place the pen and paper in front of them. They may have caught on and be hesitant to pick it up.

SAY: I'd really love a note — could you just tell that pen to write me one?

Respond to the final volunteer as they try to dictate their note, then invite them to return to their seat. Transition to setting up a time of discussion, saying:

SAY: Can you read our Bible verse with me again please?



Altogether, from a slide or from the passports, read:

SAY: *Dear children, let's not merely say that we love each other; let us show the truth by our actions.*

Q: Why do you think this writer prefers actions instead of words alone?

Q: Can you think of an example of actions showing more love to someone than words?

Q: We've probably all heard the phrase, "Actions speak louder than words." In some ways, these verses mean the same thing. When we follow Jesus, what do we want our actions to say? Take a minute to write or draw your answer in your passport.

After kids have had some time to write, ask:

Q: Why do you pick that phrase or picture?

SAY: As we follow Jesus together, we can put God's love into action, so that others can know they are loved and can have hope.

We've been meeting friends from the Philippines who follow Jesus in the midst of some challenging circumstances. In knowing Jesus, being part of the church, and taking one next step after another, these friends are showing God's love to those around them. It's not always easy, but thankfully, they aren't alone. Let's meet Heugene and Heunice [pronounced "Eugene and Eunice," without the "H" sound], and I want you to look for ways that people are putting God's love into action. I'll ask you to share what you saw afterward.



WATCH VIDEO

MEET HEUGENE & HEUNICE



[0:21–0:26]
VIDEO



MEET HEUGENE & HEUNICE

LEADER NOTE:

Heugene and Heunice are twin brother and sister who live in the same community as Jonas, from Step One. Though their family has little money, they grew up with a community of support, including becoming part of a Child Development Center and having a Compassion Sponsor.

The video directly mentions both Child Development Centers and sponsorship. All Child Development Centers are ministries of local churches with local leaders. This church partnership is the way children and families are supported through the work of Compassion International sponsorship. Sponsorship costs just \$38 a month and brings hope to a real child in another part of the world through educational and nutritional support, as well as Christian discipleship. Compassion sponsors in a 1-to-1 model, meaning that a child only has one sponsor or sponsor family.



PICTURE/SLIDE: VIDEO TIME



PICTURE/SLIDE:

WATCH VIDEO: "MEET HEUGENE & HEUNICE"

Today, Heugene and Heunice are leaders in their community, leading Bible study, teaching dance, and pouring love and encouragement into younger kids. This video will help kids see how, when we take a next step to follow Jesus, it puts love in action for someone else. That action makes a big difference and gives hope, like it did for Heugene and Heunice.



WATCH VIDEO

MEET HEUGENE & HEUNICE



[0:27–0:35]
DEBRIEF



PICTURE/SLIDE:

VIDEO DEBRIEF

LEADER NOTE: After the video, you may wish to begin by asking kids to talk about what they saw and heard. You can ask a couple of questions like: What did the street look like? What did the kids wear? Where did they go? What were the kids doing? What are their houses made out of? What furniture is in their homes? Then transition into the reflection questions for kids to write and share together.

Q: Who was putting God's love into action in this video? How'd they do it?

Answers include how Heugene & Heunice, as they teach and lead in their community; the church; the Child Development Center staff, as they care for kids; their sponsors, who pray for them and encourage them.

Q: The video ends talking about hope, and about who brings hope to people and places where it's needed. How did you see Heugene and Heunice bringing hope to others?

Q: Heugene and Heunice were transformed by God's love because the people around them put God's love into action. Those people kept following Jesus, step after step, and Jesus led them to loving Heugene and Heunice. Jesus calls us to follow him. When we follow him, one step at a time, he leads us to love others. So what about you? Who is Jesus calling you to love?





NEXT STEPS ACTIVITY & PRAYER



[0:36–0:48]

LEADER

SAY: Like Heugene and Heunice, following Jesus looks like one faithful step after the other, and often we may not know exactly what the step AFTER the next step looks like, but that's okay.

If you have a LEGO set, hold it up for the group to see.

Q: How many of you have ever put together a LEGO set?
What do you have to do first?

Kids may say things like, "Open the box"; and if they do, keep asking, "And then?" until you get to the point where they say they have to start following directions. Ask,

Q: Would you ever open a big LEGO set and start by opening all the bags and dumping all the parts on the floor? Why not? Because you have to build it one step at a time.

Note: LEGO sets usually come with parts segmented into smaller bags labeled with numbers that correspond to steps in the directions.

Just like that, we can only follow Jesus one step at a time. No matter how much we want to see the whole picture, a lot of times we only see one next step. Then the next. Then the next.

On the other hand, with LEGOs, we might know we are building a rocket or a skyscraper or a bakery. But when it comes to following Jesus, we can't skip ahead to see what's coming. We know the very very end of the story, but there are a lot of steps in between.

The thing is, we don't get anywhere if we stand still. Sometimes we get frozen because we don't know what to do, or we're scared, or we feel too young, or like we don't have any power.

Remember, our Scripture passage for this week pushes us a bit beyond just ideas and things we say. The verse challenges us: ***Let's not just say we love each other, but put it into true action.***

Most of the time, action doesn't start with something huge. It starts with one small step.



ACTIVITY

SAY: Let's stand up right now. Stand with your feet together.

Give everyone a few moments to get ready.

Now take one step. Just one!

Now take one more.

Now sit back down.

That may not have felt like much. But look around — we're all somewhere new! One step may not change everything, but it's the start of any change.

In your passport, find the page that says, "My next step." Take a few minutes to ask Jesus, "What is my next step?" and then listen. You'll write or draw what you sense God might be saying to answer your question.

LEADER NOTE: The passports include the following reflection exercise. Younger kids or pre-readers will need help doing this part, or you may want to do this together instead. Help remind kids that these steps could be as near as in their home, their school, or their team to as far away as another country.

"My Next Step"

- I will do: {what} _____ to serve: {whom} _____
- I will do: {what} _____ to raise money to give to: {whom} _____
- I will share my: {heart} _____ with {whom} to put love in action: _____

"My Final Step"

- Talk to my family about sponsoring a child or taking another next step together. Kids to draw a picture of their family talking.

CLOSING



[0:49–1:00]

LEADER

At this point, you can choose one of the following options, based on your context, your group, and what seems like the most appropriate way to end both this session and this series.

OPTION 1

Pray by reading the whole 1 John 3:16–18 passage out loud three times, pausing in between each reading to reflect in silence on the passage and our next steps. Ideally a different person would read the passage each time. The passage is printed in full in the passport. Ask kids to circle what stands out to them as they listen, and then share what they sensed God saying.

OPTION 2

Lead a call-and-response liturgy, pausing at the \\\ marks for kids to repeat:

Every single day \\\ Jesus says, “*follow me.*” \\\

Everywhere we go \\\ Jesus says, “*follow me.*” \\\

When things are happy, \\\

When things are sad. \\\

If Jesus goes somewhere exciting, \\\

If Jesus goes somewhere hard. \\\

Every single day \\\ Jesus says, “*follow me.*” \\\

Every single day \\\ we will follow!

OPTION 3

Consider taking a tangible next action step right here and now so the experience doesn’t end with just words. Plan ahead of time to pack toiletry supply bags for a local homeless ministry, write or draw letters for a ministry or missionary your church sponsors already, or do some other tangible action.

Finally, encourage students to watch the Compassion video about sponsorship when they get home, noted in the back of the passport.

You might say, “One step your family may want to take is to sponsor a child in poverty. There are kids like Jonas, Audrey Mae, Leah, Heugene, and Heunice not just in the Philippines, but all over the world. They are kids just like you — smart and fun — and they need people to cheer for them, be their friend, pray for them, and help them become all God hopes they’ll be. There’s information in the back of your passport about how to watch a video at home to learn how sponsorship through Compassion International can help make that happen.”

As you close, make sure all students take home their passports, and give a Family Toolkit to anyone who missed the other steps. Remind everyone to watch the virtual reality videos of Heugene and Heunice and their community at home, and encourage them to go back and watch any other 360-videos they may have missed!



ONE FINAL STEP:

Every child featured in Step Into My Shoes — Philippines is or was blessed to have a Compassion sponsor. Your church can serve together in this way too. Compassion’s child sponsorship program is a way for your church families to actively engage in global missions through a personal, one-on-one relationship with a child in poverty. It’s a simple, tangible way for them to grow together in faith as they write to and pray for, a child in need.

Encourage your church families to follow God’s call to action by sponsoring a child today. They can learn more at stepintomyshoes.org/sponsor.