

# CALLED — TO — CARE



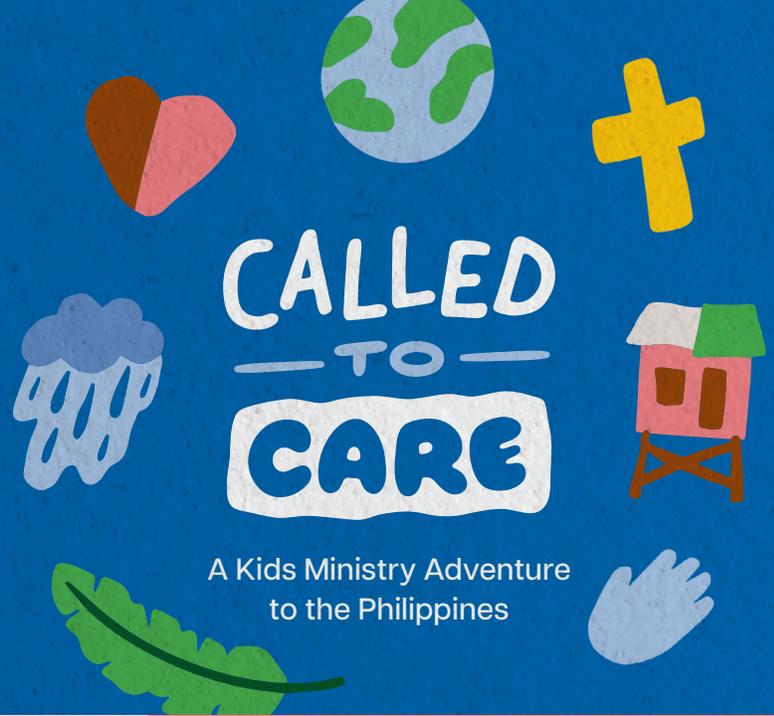
A Kids Ministry Adventure  
to the Philippines



# LEADER'S GUIDE



# LEADER'S GUIDE



**LEADER NOTES:** Called to Care is a 90-minute experience that immerses adults and kids (designed for ages 6 to 12) into a different community and culture without ever leaving the church building. This experience leads participants through three multi-sensory experiences:

- 1 First participants will “travel” to the Payatas, a community on the island of Luzon in the Philippines. They will meet Audrey Mae and her family. Participants will learn about life in the Philippines and how loving actions *here* can show Jesus’ love *there*.
- 2 Next, they’ll respond to a storm scenario that brought flooding and damaged their neighborhood in Payatas. Participants will gather items and work together to craft a shelter that would help them survive for two or three days in a crisis.
- 3 Finally, the group will spend some time in Scripture and prayer, inviting God to show them how they can put love into action as they follow Jesus. Specifically, they’ll be invited to consider how they might take a next step to help children in poverty both near and far.

## BRING IT CLOSE TO HOME

**OPTIONAL:** This event is a great opportunity to not only share about caring for those in poverty across the globe but also to share how families can make a difference in your local community. If this near and far model is a fit for you, then we encourage you to coordinate in advance with a local opportunity that cares for others. Then on the day of the event, you can invite your church family to take loving action both locally and globally.

If you already have local partnerships, use those existing relationships to determine a way your participants can care for others locally. If you don’t have partnerships, here are three phone calls you can make to help you pick a local organization to support:

- Your food bank or pantry. Ask them if there is a particular item or category of provisions (dry goods, toiletries, etc.) that would be useful to them.
- Your local emergency housing services or homeless/transitional shelter. Ask them if there are specific items they need for residents that your church could collect.
- A public school in your community. Ask what supplies you could gather to serve teachers and students there.

A few weeks before your Called to Care event, let participants know what items to bring to support your local organization. By dropping off items during your event, participants can connect the idea of caring for others both locally and globally.

# WELCOME

## SUPPLY LIST:

### Compassion Will Provide:

- A slideshow. The first eight slides are an automatic loop of images to show as participants enter, then the rest is a section that can be controlled by the host as the event progresses.
- Printable activity cards.
- Slides to simulate before and after the typhoon with audio.
- Videos embedded in the slideshow.
- Child Sponsorship Packets.

### You'll Need to Gather:

- Envelopes for the provided cards.
- A way to display the slides, images and videos.
- Various (clean) trash items, such as bottles, boxes, tarps, plastic grocery and trash bags, newspapers, cardboard pieces, bags, cans, old pots and pans, discarded clothing items. Estimate roughly 4-5 items per person, but plan to have a few extra as choices are an integral part of the activity.
- Several trash bags, but not enough for each person to have one. Some will have to share.
- A writing utensil per group.
- A permanent marker per group.
- A lighter-colored flip-flop per group, which 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. Dark-colored soles will not work for the activity.

\*Resources, images, videos and PowerPoint slides provided by Compassion are available for download at [compassion.com/calledtocare](https://compassion.com/calledtocare). 

## SET UP

- Place all trash items together in one section of the space to represent a dump. Include the flip-flops with the trash items.
- Seating arrangements can vary depending on the size of your group and your space. Participants can sit at tables or, given that this is a simulation and people will be moving at various points throughout, they can sit in circles on the floor.
- Place several trash bags around the room or under tables. These will act as sleeping mats. There should not be enough for each participant to have their own so some will have to share.

## VOLUNTEER ROLES

- A leader to host the experience. This person should be comfortable serving as a facilitator who helps people share their thoughts and invites question-based conversation and debrief.
- Set-up team to bring in clean trash items, create a check-in space and (optional) bring bins to collect your local project donations.
- Host team or at least one other helper to welcome participants, distribute supplies to groups during the event and help answer questions. At the beginning of the event, a member of your host team should count the number of participants and figure out a number of groups that works well for your attendance. For example, if you have 30 participants, when the time comes for them to break into groups, you can ask them to divide into 3 groups of 10.
- Once your participants are seated at the table or in groups on the floor, one adult participant will be nominated as the group host.

# EVENT SCHEDULE



(0:00–0:10)  
Check-In



(0:10–0:14)  
Introduction

## CHECK-IN

- Welcome each group or family to Called to Care and give each person an Activity Card.
- As families are waiting for the event to begin, play slides 1-8 on the provided PowerPoint. These should be an automated loop to show images from the Philippines.
- Optional: play Filipino music as kids and families enter.

## INTRODUCTION

**LEADER NOTE:** Scripted portions for the leader to say aloud (or adapt accordingly) are noted as “ALoud” from here forward.

**ALoud:** Welcome to Called to Care, an immersive global experience! Today we’re going to talk about children living in poverty around the world. We want to better understand how we can follow Jesus together, taking action to help these children become all God created them to be.

In some communities, like the one we’ll be visiting today in the Philippines, most people face poverty as a daily reality.

Some kids live in extreme poverty – they live on less than \$2.15 per day. Almost 1 out of every 10 people in the world lives like this – on less than two dollars each day. That’s less than \$16 per week, which is about how much you might spend here in our community buying a fast-food meal for one or two people. It’s hard to live like that. The girl we’ll meet today lives in extreme poverty.

Though she and others in her community have less than we do, they aren’t less than we are. They are just like you! This is VERY important to remember!

They are smart, creative, fun and loving, just like you. We are called to care for them. When Jesus says to love our neighbor, he means neighbors near and far. So, are you all ready to go to the Philippines?





# MEET AUDREY MAE

## TRAVEL TO THE PHILIPPINES

**ALOUD:** First, we're going to meet Audrey Mae. She is 8 years old, and she lives in Payatas on the island of Luzon in the Philippines. The Philippines is a country made up of roughly 7,100 islands. Only 2,000 of these islands have people living on them. As we meet Audrey Mae, I want you to imagine you live in Payatas, too. Let's see a little bit of what this life in Payatas looks like for Audrey Mae – and you.

 **Picture/Slide:**

**PLAY VIDEO, SLIDE 9: "MEET AUDREY MAE"**

**AFTER VIDEO, ASK:**

 **Picture/Slide:**

**ALOUD, QUESTION ON SLIDE 10:** What was the most interesting part of Audrey Mae's story to you?

**LEADER NOTE:** Take answers.

 **Picture/Slide:**

**ALOUD, QUESTION ON SLIDE 11:** What is something you have in common with this family?

**LEADER NOTE:** Take answers.

 **Picture/Slide:**

**ALOUD, QUESTION ON SLIDE 12:** What is one challenge her family faces that is NOT familiar to you?

**LEADER NOTE:** Take answers.

**ALOUD:** Since you now live in Payatas, let's think about what your life looks like. Let's start at night with your cozy bed. We've provided mats for you to rest, so find a mat and let's lie down to sleep. There may not be enough mats for everyone, so you may have to share.

**LEADER NOTE:** Hold up a "mat" to show that they are looking for the garbage bag to us as their sleeping mat. Give everyone time to lie down, and encourage the whole group, not just kids, to participate if they're able.

**ALOUD:** Now, not everyone has to sleep on hard ground, but not everyone has a nice soft mattress either. And homes may not be big enough for beds with structures, so families may use sleeping mats that they can move to the side during the day. Many homes here are small so they can't fit more than one mat, or the families may not be able to afford more than one. Let's take our mat out and get ready for bed. Some of you may have to share. Let's lie down and sleep.



# PRESENT STORM SCENARIO



(0:30–0:45)

## Picture/Slide:

**LEADER NOTE, SLIDE 13:** While they are sleeping, play the audio clip on Slide 13. This is audio of a massive storm.

**ALOUD:** Wake up, everyone. Did you all hear the storm last night? It was huge! Now, do roosters crow early in the morning or late? Early! Really early, maybe 4 a.m. So, let's get up.

**LEADER NOTE:** Have families stand from this point until they are released for the trash activity.

**ALOUD:** It's very early, maybe 4 a.m., but we have to get up early. We must head to the dump. The dump is where everyone takes their garbage, but it's where we go to look through to find things to sell. Many in our community will be at the dump because there aren't a lot of jobs here. This is how we make money to provide for our families. Because of the bad storm last night, it's important that we get to the dump and gather supplies.

**LEADER NOTE:** Kids may start to rush to your "dump" site before finishing directions. One thing you can say as you call them back is, "Hold on a second! I understand why you're in a rush – of course you are, you want to get the best trash! But before you go ..." and then continue your final directions. Leaning into the entire scenario will help kids imagine they're really there.

**ALOUD:** The storm you heard last night was a typhoon. Does anyone know what a typhoon is?

**LEADER NOTE:** Give time for answers.

**ALOUD:** Here in the Philippines, our weather is tropical, which makes things green and beautiful. But sometimes, we get tropical storms, called typhoons.

## Picture/Slide:

**LEADER NOTE, SLIDE 14:** Show the before picture of the community.

**ALOUD:** But we sometimes have typhoons. A typhoon is a huge tropical cyclone that develops in the western part of the North Pacific Ocean. The fast winds send things flying around. Many of our buildings are not strong; some are made of thin wood, and many of our windows are open to the outside. The storm last night was so strong that it damaged our buildings and homes.

## Picture/Slide:

**LEADER NOTE, SLIDE 15:** Show the after picture of the community.

**ALOUD:** Our job now is to go out to find what we can to help us recover and survive. We need things to build a shelter, personal care items, maybe even clothes and shoes.

**ALOUD:** Where do you think we will go to get things we need to recover and survive?

**LEADER NOTE:** Give time for guesses.

**ALOUD:** That's right, the dump.



# PRESENT STORM SCENARIO CONT'D



(0:30-0:45)

## ACTIVITY

### Picture/Slide:

**ALOUD, SHOW SLIDE 16:** I need the children to gather trash for your group from our garbage dump. Each child should grab 3-4 pieces. You will have to build something with this, so be careful what you pick. You will have 5 minutes to do this, so you need to hurry! I'll set a timer, and when you hear the timer, go back to your table.

**LEADER NOTE:** This might not feel like enough time to them, but the urgency helps replicate the challenge of this situation in real life. While children are at the trash, instruct the group host to use the discussion questions titled "Trash Discussion" in the Activity Cards. Instruct group hosts to help facilitate discussion after their trash collection.

## TRASH DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

**LEADER NOTE:** Once the 5 minutes is up, call everyone back to their spots.

**ALOUD:** OK, time is up! Let's head back to your spot and look through the discussion questions. Think about ways you can use your items to help you recover from this storm. What are some things you could do with your items?

**LEADER NOTE:** Kids may have fun ideas, like turning corrugated tin into an Ironman suit. You can respond by saying, "I like that idea! It's very fun. And you are right, children everywhere want to play, which is good. Can I also ask you – what would you do with that if you needed to use it for your family to survive?" That child might then add, for example, find more pieces to build a house.



# CREATE A SHELTER-BUILDING COMMUNITY



(0:45-1:00)

## ACTIVITY: CREATE A SHELTER-BUILDING COMMUNITY

**LEADER NOTE:** This is where you will ask your participants to break up into groups. At the beginning of the event, your volunteer team took attendance and should have the best number of groups that will work.

### Picture/Slide:

**ALOUD, SHOW SLIDE 17:** Now we are going to work together as a community. Let's get together in [##] groups of [##].

**LEADER NOTE:** Give them time to get into groups and introduce themselves.

**ALOUD:** This is now your community. You need each other to survive. Now, go around the group and think of ways that you can combine your items to help build a shelter.

**LEADER NOTE:** Give them time to discuss.

**ALOUD:** Once you've talked about how you can work together with your combination of items, start to build a shelter together. Be sure to use all your items. When I say "start", you have 10 minutes to build your shelter. Start to build a shelter together!

**LEADER NOTE:** Give them 10 minutes to build. This is a great time to snap photos! Then start a discussion with the entire group.



# CREATE A SHELTER-BUILDING COMMUNITY CONT'D



(0:45–1:00)

## TALK ABOUT IT

**ALOUD:** Let's have a few people share what that was like.

### **Picture/Slide:**

**ALOUD, SHOW SLIDE 18:** What was easy or fun?

**LEADER NOTE:** Take answers.

**ALOUD, SHOW SLIDE 18:** What was hard or frustrating?

**LEADER NOTE:** Take answers.

### **Picture/Slide:**

**ALOUD, SHOW SLIDE 19:** In what ways did working as a group – a community – make it easier to build your shelter to survive? What would it have been like to do this alone?

**LEADER NOTE:** Take a few moments to invite people to share with the large group what they experienced.

### **Picture/Slide:**

**ALOUD, SHOW SLIDE 20:** Let's come back to [your city name]. For a few minutes today, we searched through the trash for what we needed. It was the only place we could look to find what we needed because we couldn't buy anything. What if this was your life every day? What would be the biggest change from what you're used to now?

**LEADER NOTE:** Take answers.

### **Picture/Slide:**

**ALOUD, SHOW SLIDE 21:** From what you've learned today, what does it mean to live in poverty?

**ALOUD:** Our experience today is a small glimpse into life for people experiencing poverty. They do not have what they need, and they do not have the means to get what they need.

### **Picture/Slide:**

**ALOUD, SHOW SLIDE 22:** How would you feel if you were living in poverty like this and there wasn't any hope of that ever changing?

**LEADER NOTE:** Again, wait for several answers. Children will come up with a lot of responses here, and it's good that they're connecting with the emotion of the experience.

**ALOUD:** That's what poverty is. It's a lack of hope and opportunity. People feel that poverty defines who they are, so it makes them feel that they're not worth anything at all.

**LEADER NOTE:** Here, you will transition to the Biblical Focus section.

**ALOUD:** When we understand stories like Audrey Mae's, we see that our lives are similar in some ways and very different in other ways. This is what's called empathy. Empathy is the ability to understand and share the feelings of another person, whether it be joy, sorrow, anger or any other emotion. Life is hard for kids who are facing extreme poverty. But there's an even bigger reality that we have in common with kids like Audrey Mae.

**LEADER NOTE:** Take a quick break here so people can stretch and use the restroom.

# BIBLE FOCUS



1 JOHN 3:16-18  
(1:00-1:10)

## BIBLICAL FOCUS: WE ARE CALLED

### Picture/Slide:

**ALOUD, SHOW SLIDE 23:** 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 call out across a noisy room – “Hey!” – we sometimes hear someone call someone else a name. But none of those are what I mean by saying, “We are called.”

I mean that Jesus calls us! And do you know what he says when he calls us? “Hello? Is [your name] there?” Not quite ... Jesus calls us to action. He says, “Follow me.” And we can say, “Yes!”

As we follow Jesus, we get to join other followers – the Church. The Church is the family of God all over the world. And best of all, as we follow Jesus together, we get to care for people in need, especially children in poverty.

Check out how John talks about our call in 1 John.

**LEADER NOTE:** Show slides below as you read verses.

### Picture/Slide:

**ALOUD, SLIDE 24:** “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.

### Picture/Slide:

**ALOUD, SLIDE 25:** “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:

**ALOUD, SLIDE 26:** “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

**ALOUD:** John is reminding us in these verses that there’s a difference between just saying something versus showing it. Sometimes we say things but don’t show it.

Here are some examples. Sometimes we say we’ll clean our room, but we don’t do it. Sometimes we say we care about a sport but don’t spend time practicing it. Sometimes we say we’re a friend but don’t listen to our friends when they need us.

John is telling us that saying and doing must go together with compassion.

**LEADER NOTE:** The next slide includes a Greek word that you will need to read out loud. We encourage you to look up a YouTube video with pronunciation instructions before your event so you can practice.

### Picture/Slide:

**ALOUD, SHOW SLIDE 27:** Let’s dig a little bit further. The Greek word for compassion is *splagchnizomai*. Can you say that with me? Splagchnizomai. This is the Greek word for demonstrating a strong feeling of compassion, pity or mercy that often leads to action.

### Picture/Slide:

**ALOUD, SHOW SLIDE 28:** Do you have any examples of showing compassion?

**LEADER NOTE:** Take answers.

### Picture/Slide:

**ALOUD, SHOW SLIDE 29:** As we think about people like Audrey Mae, what can it look like to follow Jesus together? What are some ways we can say we love people like her AND show it in our actions?

**LEADER NOTE:** Take answers.

**ALOUD:** In your group, talk about what kinds of actions might matter most to someone like Audrey Mae. What would make her feel loved and cared for?

**LEADER NOTE:** Give families a couple of minutes to talk, then transition to Our Next Step.



(1:10–1:20)

# OUR NEXT STEP

## OUR NEXT STEP

**LEADER NOTE:** We want to give each person space to ask God to lead them in responding to what they've learned. So next, we'll do three things:

1. Invite God to speak to each person.
2. Offer them a glimpse of how sponsorship can be a next step.
3. Give participants a chance to pray for children awaiting sponsorship.

 **Picture/Slide:**

**ALOUD, SHOW SLIDE 30:** As we follow Jesus together, we get to put our love into action in our world – on our street, in our schools, in our neighborhood and around the globe.

**OPTIONAL:** If your group brought items to serve a local charity or school, this is a great time to highlight the project as a concrete example of following Jesus in caring for people locally. You might add:

**ALOUD IF YOU HAVE A LOCAL CAUSE:** We already did that in a huge way with our [LOCAL PROJECT]! And tomorrow, Jesus will call us again, "Follow me." And we can say, "Yes," all over again.

**ALOUD IF YOUR GROUP DOESN'T HAVE LOCAL CAUSE:** Jesus calls us right now, "Follow me." And tomorrow, Jesus will call us again, "Follow me." And we can say, "Yes," all over again each day.

Let's watch this video of possible next steps for you and your family.

 **Picture/Slide:**

**LEADER NOTE:** Play video on slide 30.



# OUR NEXT STEP CONT'D



(1:10–1:20)

**LEADER NOTE:** Have your host team pass out packets so that each person has one. Instruct participants to wait to open the packets.

**ALOUD:** One way we can follow Jesus and say yes to his calling is by helping kids living in poverty, just like Audrey Mae. We work with an organization called Compassion International, and they work with kids all over the world who are facing poverty. Compassion helps connect them with loving people like you and me who want to help. Compassion International helps release children from poverty in Jesus' name!

Each of you has a packet. Each packet has a photo and information about a real child living in poverty right now, just like Audrey Mae. These are children who don't have enough; they struggle to get food and medicine and sometimes even just shelter. Let's open the packets so you can read about the child.

**LEADER NOTE:** Give a moment for them to read.

**ALOUD:** We'd like to pray for each of these children, so would you pray with me? I'm going to open our prayer, and then there will be a time for you to pray for the packets we have.

## PRAY TOGETHER

**ALOUD:** Dear Jesus,

Thank you for calling us. Thank you for equipping us to follow you and care for others. What is our next step? When you invite us to follow you, we want to say yes. Help us know what it looks like for us to put love into action for people near and far.

We all need to know that you made us, value us and love us. This is especially true for children facing poverty, and we see some of their faces and names right now. So we lift up these children to you.

**LEADER NOTE:** Provide a minute or two of quiet so people can pray to themselves.

**ALOUD:** In your name, Amen.

**ALOUD:** We pray that God leads you to many ways to help others. One way to help children experiencing poverty is by sponsorship. That's what these packets are for, to sponsor kids around the world. So what is sponsorship?

Sponsorship costs just \$43 a month. It brings hope to a real child in another part of the world. You'll be connected with a child facing poverty, and your generous monthly gift will connect them with a church in their community. The church will help them get the things they need like food, clothes, and school fees and will help them learn about Jesus and get their own Bible. You'll get to write letters and pray for this child. It will be a powerful connection for them and you!

**LEADER NOTE:** Have pens on hand for those who want to fill out the sponsorship packets during the event. With your packets, you will receive instructions on how to return completed packets. You will discard incomplete packets as these packets are printed custom to your event. Handle completed sign-up forms with care; they carry confidential information (credit card numbers).

## TALK ABOUT IT

**LEADER NOTE:** Transition to a short group discussion time. This isn't meant to be a full conversation but rather to give groups time to start talking, knowing they'll continue in the days ahead.

**ALOUD:** Whether we have a lot or a little, we can always show love to others. Right now, your group will have 5 minutes to answer these three questions together from your Take Away card:

- Q. How do we already put love into action right now?
- Q. What ideas do we have to start caring for others in new ways?
- Q. What is our next step?

**LEADER NOTE:** Give 5 minutes for this discussion.

# MAKE A TAKE-HOME PRAYER REMINDER



(1:20-1:30)

## ACTIVITY: MAKE A TAKE-HOME PRAYER REMINDER (1:20-1:30)

**SUPPLIES:** Flip-flops and permanent markers.

**ALOUD:** Whatever your next step is, we want you to have a reminder of our experience, to help you remember to show love through action. As a family, take one flip-flop and, using a marker, write the words “Follow Me” on the soles as a reminder of Jesus’ call to us.

If you’ve picked a next step, you might want to write it on there as well. If you aren’t sure yet, that’s okay too. Place your flip-flop somewhere you’ll see it every morning, and when you see it, pray for Audrey Mae, her community, the Philippines and other places facing poverty. And pray for yourself and your family, that you’ll have the courage to say yes to Jesus’ call each day and that he’ll guide you in taking steps to follow him.

Thank you for spending time today visiting the Philippines and meeting precious little Audrey Mae.

**LEADER NOTE:** Show slide 31 to end the presentation portion. Transition to playing a Filipino game with the flip-flops. You can play the flip-flop game with kids while adults finish up the sponsorship process.



“FOLLOW ME”



# GAME: KNOCK DOWN THE CAN

## DESCRIPTION & RULES OF THE GAME

This game is designed for 10-12 children at a time. For larger groups, break students into age-appropriate groups.

**1. SET UP:** Divide kids into groups of 4-6 and make sure they take their flip-flop. Set down a 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. If the player flips 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's can lands on its side. 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 player who is "It" has to run, 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.

If a player throws their flip-flop and does 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 their 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.

