

COMPASSION

# explorer®



**LOVE YOUR  
FAMILY**



HI, EXPLORERS!

Welcome to your summer issue, which is all about family love! You'll travel around the world and see inside the homes of sponsored children's families. Each of them has a special story of how God brought them together to be a family!

This fun issue also has activities and ideas for being kind and forgiving to your family members. And we've got you covered with handmade gifts for Mother's Day and Father's Day!



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by other Explorers.

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Questions or Comments?

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GIGGLE

Remember this picture of twin sisters Gift and Joy from the Spring 2020  
Compassion Explorer Magazine?  
Here are some of your great captions! Find more  
at [explorer.compassion.com/explorers](http://explorer.compassion.com/explorers).

Swing your partner  
'round and 'round!  
Juliana, 11  
Sacramento, Calif.

That's funny! A backward  
piggyback ride!  
Finn, 6  
Curlew, Wash.

Joy: "Hey, sis, I think we should be  
on 'So You Think You Can Dance!'"  
Gift: "Yeah, we could SO win!"  
Adelyn, 11  
Puyallup, Wash.

For the last  
time: I'm NOT  
a seesaw!  
Grace, 12  
Chula Vista, Calif.

I didn't know  
this could be so  
much fun!  
Solomon, 9  
Goshen, Ind.

This is what you  
get for stealing  
my pink shoes!  
Aiden, 11  
Springfield, Mo.

Don't drop me,  
please!  
Nathaniel, 11  
Carol Stream, Ill.

Wow! My backpack is  
heavier than usual!  
Beatrix, 11  
Indiana, Pa.

On the way back,  
you're carrying me,  
all right?  
Addy, 10  
Sahuarita, Ariz.

Ahh, I'm  
gonna do a  
backflip!  
Luke, 7  
Visalia, Calif.

Gift: "Ha, ha, ha! This is  
so much fun!"  
Joy: "OK, OK, can you  
put me down now?"  
Selah, 13  
Goshen, Ind.



Check out the next Giggle photo on the back cover!



## WHAT MAKES A FAMILY A FAMILY?



**Mue-blue-tu**, the sponsored girl in the photo above, lives with her **mom**, **brother** and **stepdad**. This is their home in Thailand.

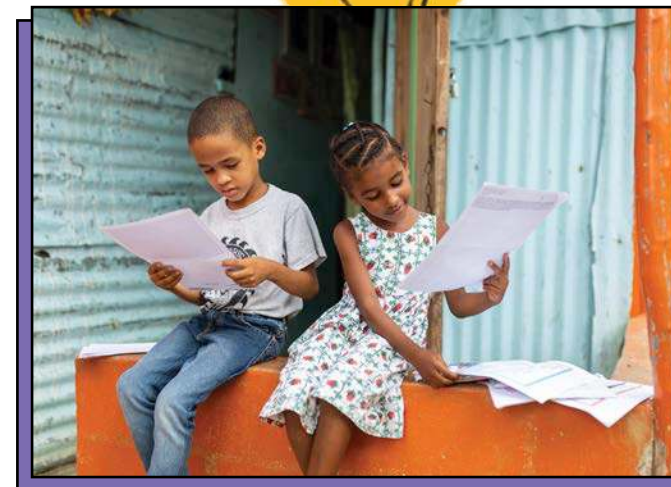
No two families look the same. They live in different homes, wear different clothes, speak different languages. Some kids live with a **single parent**, **grandparents** or other relatives. With so many differences, what makes a family a family? To find out, let's visit some families of sponsored children around the world!



Some of the following photos include questions to help you look closer and think harder. We bet you'll notice details in the pictures that you didn't notice at first glance!



What do you see in Brisnel and Frayner's yard? Do you have any of the same items in your yard? Which items are different from those in your yard?



*"With the last gift my sponsors sent me, my mommy bought me school supplies and a pair of shoes. They love me and I love them so much."*

— Frayner

*"I love receiving my sponsors' letters, and I love to see the photos they send. They always tell me that they love me."*

— Brisnel

**Brisnel**, 4, and her brother **Frayner**, 7, live with their **mom** and **siblings** in the Dominican Republic. They are happy and healthy today, but two years ago they were sad. Their **dad** left their family, and their mom had no money for food. So they all grew sick. To sleep at night, they had to squeeze onto one chair, their only furniture.

Then a **family friend** showed them love: She said they could live for free in a home she owned in another town! They happily moved into the home pictured above. Their mom took the kids to a church, where Brisnel and Frayner joined Compassion's program!

Now, Brisnel and Frayner's family has grown! It includes their **sponsors**, who write them letters (which they're reading in the photo to the left). It also includes their **church family** at the Compassion center, where they receive food, Bible lessons, health checkups and more!







What do you notice about this photo of Lenkai's family outside their home?



This is Lenkai outside his Compassion center. How is he feeling? Why?



This is Lenkai and his mom in their kitchen. Does your kitchen have any similar items in it? How is your kitchen different?

Pictured above is 11-year-old **Lenkai** (in the purple sweater) with his **mom**, **uncle** and **cousins** in Kenya. They have an unusual story about how God brought them together as a family!

**Nasinde**, Lenkai's mom, lived with her **brother** and his **wife**. One day she heard crying and followed the sound to a field. Someone had left a newborn baby there! Nasinde worked with police, but they could not find the baby's **parents**. So even though Nasinde had no money to care for a child, she adopted him and named him Lenkai, which means "God's son" in their language.

Nasinde gets help caring for Lenkai from a local **church**, which found a sponsor for Lenkai! He goes to a Compassion center to learn, play and dream. He wants to be a doctor someday. Lenkai's favorite Bible verse is Philippians 4:4: "Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!"

The three **siblings** pictured below live in Thailand at a home for children without **parents**. They went to live there after their parents died in a fire. The woman in the photo, **Em Mui**, is their **caregiver**. The siblings also have **sponsors** and go to a Compassion center at a nearby **church**.

There are 24 other kids who live in the home. The picture on the right shows Em Mui serving them a meal. Many of them are sponsored. The church makes sure that Em Mui always has enough food for all the children who live at the home!



What do notice about the room where the family is sitting?





**Eduardo**, 10, is pictured on the left with his family — **Valdinar**, 28, and **Mrs. Raimunda**. They became a family in an unusual way! When Valdinar was a baby, his **parents** abandoned him. That means they left him alone without finding someone to care for him. But God sent Mrs. Raimunda, a kind woman with no children of her own, to find baby Valdinar. She became his **foster mom** and raised him with love.

Then when Valdinar was 18, he found a baby who had been abandoned like he was. That baby was Eduardo! Valdinar took him to Mrs. Raimunda, who said she would be his foster mom too. Valdinar helps Mrs. Raimunda care for Eduardo. They get lots of help from their **church family**, who welcomed Eduardo into Compassion’s program and found him a **sponsor**!

Eduardo and Valdinar are washing clothes outside their home in Brazil. How is this different from how your family does laundry? How is it the same?



God brings families together in so many unique ways! Families around the world have many differences. But they all have one thing in common. This one thing is a gift from God that brings people together, gives them joy, and keeps them strong when challenges come. Can you guess what it is?

**\_\_\_\_\_ MAKES A FAMILY A FAMILY!**



Raise, Save, Give!

**Object:** Cooperate with the other players (you are all on the same team) to collect all four Set Cards. Then turn over the Set Cards and use them to finish the puzzle on the next page! *Pro tip:* The game is easy to learn if you play along as you read each step.

- 1. **Prepare:** Cut out the four Set Cards (to the right). Line them up on a table and notice how each one shows three items you need to collect. Give each player one (six-sided) die.
- 2. **Roll and place:** If you are the first player, roll your die to start the round. Work with the team to choose where to place your die on the game board below. You must place it on a space with the same number you rolled. Then read what the space says. Example: You roll a 2. You and the team decide to place your die on the space that shows a 2 and a muffin.
- 3. **Holding:** The next player rolls and places. Keep playing like this until everyone has rolled and placed. BUT: Sometimes it’s not possible to place, because dice can never share a space. If you roll a number whose spaces already have dice on them, then you hold your die for now.
- 4. **Check for a Set:** Look at the spaces where the team placed dice. You claim the items pictured there. Did your team claim all three items shown on a Set Card? If so, collect that Set Card and put it aside. Example: The space with a Bible has a die on it. So do the spaces with praying hands and a sponsor letter. So your team collects the Set Card that has the Bible, sponsor letter and praying hands on it.
- 5. **No Set?** If you didn’t make a Set yet, you have two more chances this round! First, any player who held a die gets to roll it once more. Second, your team may pick one placed die to move to any open space. If you do those two things and you STILL don’t make a Set, all players take back their dice, and you start a new round.
- 6. **Keep playing:** Continue to follow steps 2 to 5 until your team collects all four Set Cards.

<p>1</p> <p>You give money for kids in poverty to get Bibles.</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Mom cuts your hair so you don’t spend money at a salon.</p>	<p>6</p> <p>You play soccer all summer instead of asking for a new video game.</p>	<p>3</p> <p>You recycle a water bottle into a crafty piggy bank for saving coins.</p>
<p>4</p> <p>You save on food costs by eating only rice and beans tonight.</p>	<p>2</p> <p>You save gas money by taking bikes instead of the car.</p>	<p>3</p> <p>You do crafts at home instead of spending cash at the movies.</p>	<p>5</p> <p>You send money and a letter for your sponsored child’s birthday.</p>
<p>6</p> <p>You give money for sponsored kids to get a playground.</p>	<p>1</p> <p>You pray for creative ways to raise money for kids in poverty.</p>	<p>2</p> <p>You bake goodies to sell at a church fundraiser.</p>	<p>4</p> <p>You hold a yard sale and sell books you no longer read.</p>





### The Flip Side

After winning the game on the previous page by collecting all four cards, turn over each card to reveal a puzzle piece. Use them to finish the picture below, showing how a sponsored child might use the items you collected in the game!



## Craft



## Let Love Bloom

Kids all around the world like to give flowers to their moms (or people who are *like* moms)! Sponsored kids don't have money to buy things like flowers from a shop. So they might pick flowers for their moms — or get creative and turn recycled materials into crafty flowers!

For this fun Mother's Day craft, you will turn a recycled egg carton into the national flower of your sponsored child's country! Spend time making this craft with a special mom in your life. Or surprise her with the finished product after making it with another family member's help.

### Supplies

- empty egg carton
- scissors
- acrylic or watercolor paints
- paintbrush
- decorations for the centers of the flowers, such as pom-poms, buttons and pipe cleaners
- glue
- craft supplies for stems (paper, pipe cleaners, craft sticks, etc.)

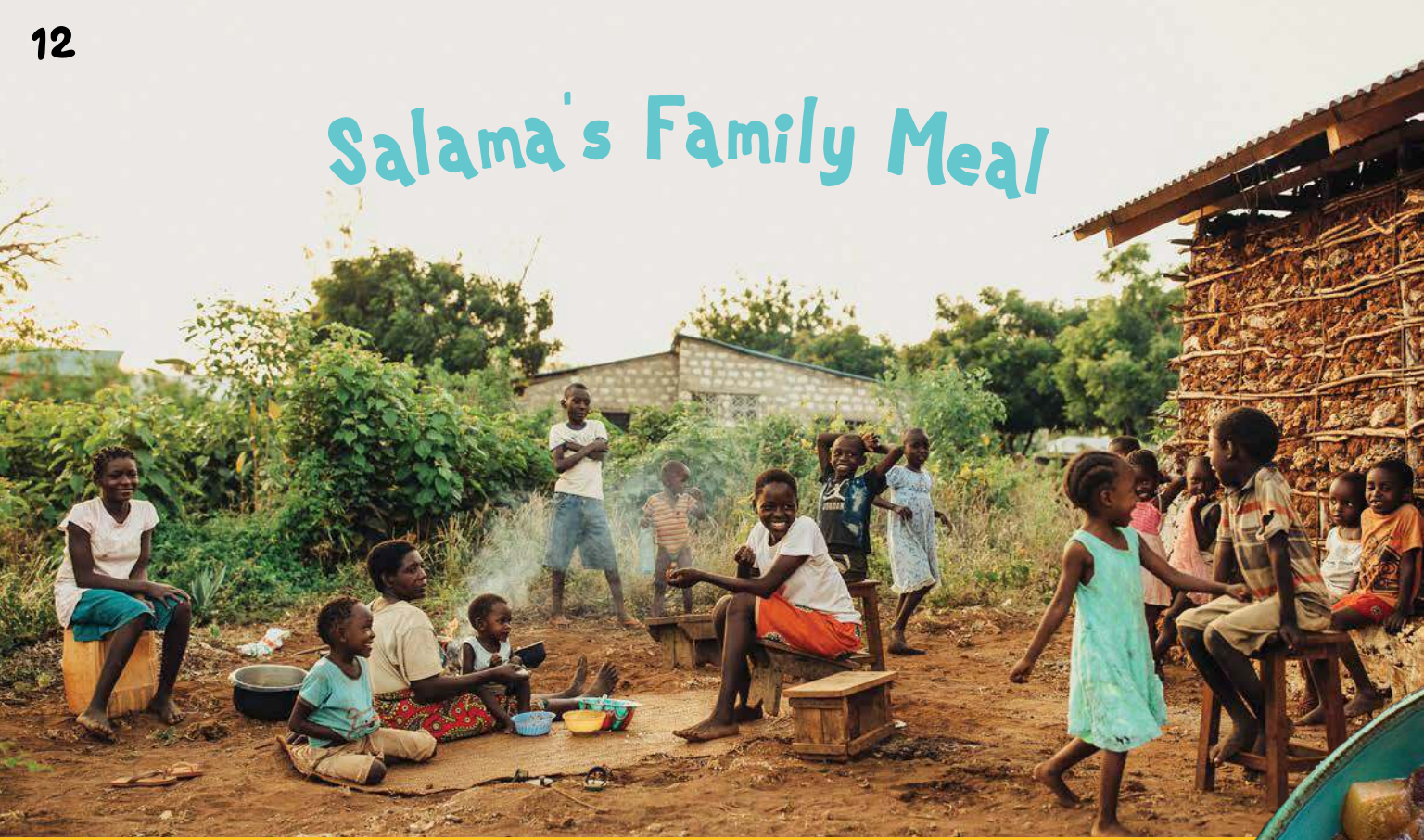
### Directions

1. *Adult help needed.* Look up a picture of the national flower of your sponsored child's country (find it here: [explorer.compassion.com/flowers](http://explorer.compassion.com/flowers)). Notice the details of the flower. Are the petals pointy or round? Are there many layers of petals or only one row? Look at the examples of egg-carton flowers pictured above. Use the one that looks most like your sponsored child's country flower as your guide.
2. Cut the egg carton into pieces. Then trim the edges of each piece to look like petals. Repeat to make as many flower heads as you would like. If you want to create petal layers, cut some pieces to be smaller than others.
3. Paint your flower pieces in whatever color you'd like and let dry.
4. To layer petals on a flower, glue the smaller pieces onto the larger pieces.
5. Glue on decorations as the flower centers.
6. Make stems from construction paper, pipe cleaners, craft sticks or other materials.
7. Tell a special mom how much you love her!





# Salama's Family Meal



Does your family ever cook outside? It can be fun to grill burgers in the backyard, or go camping and roast some hot dogs over a fire! But when you are inside, you probably cook food on a stovetop or in an oven, right?

Many sponsored children's families don't have appliances. Some don't even have electricity to power appliances. So they cook every meal over a fire.

**Salama**, a sponsored girl in Kenya, has one of those families. And it's a BIG family — she has 13 siblings! For most meals, Salama's family eats vegetables and ugali, which is a thick porridge made from cornmeal. In these photos, Salama's mom, Kadzo, is cooking a batch of ugali and beans.



Salama

The kids sit on mats on the ground while they eat their meal and talk and laugh. The children thank God that they have enough food to fill their bellies tonight!

On the next page, learn how to cook a Kenyan meal like this one!

## Cook

Sponsored kids around the world eat a lot of meals that include beans. Usually beans are less expensive than many foods, and they are commonly sold at markets. Plus, beans are delicious and have a lot of protein, which keeps kids strong and healthy!

Githeri is a Kenyan stew of beans and corn that you'll enjoy cooking and eating with your family. Before you dig in, thank God for the food and say a prayer for kids in Kenya who don't have enough to eat.



# GITHERI



Serves 4

### Ingredients

- 1 tbsp. cooking oil
- 1 medium yellow onion, chopped (about ½ c.)
- 3 tbsp. tomato paste
- 2 (15-ounce) cans of kidney beans
- 3 c. corn kernels
- 2 potatoes, cut into ½-inch cubes
- 4 c. water
- salt to taste

### Directions

1. Heat the oil in a skillet or saucepot over medium heat. Then add the onion and cook, stirring occasionally, about 10 minutes or until golden and soft.
2. Add the tomato paste and cook about 1 minute, stirring.
3. Add the beans, corn, potatoes, water and salt. Bring to a boil.
4. Reduce heat to medium and simmer, stirring occasionally, about 25 minutes or until the potatoes are soft and most liquid has been absorbed.





Stories of  
compassionate  
kids like you.

## care



Have you ever heard of a kid who builds robots AND helps children and families in need?! Well, we have! And we'd love to tell you about him.

Meet Brennen, 8. He's in second grade. He has two sisters, loves to play soccer and is good at math. Plus, he's a super creative and giving dude!

When Brennen was in kindergarten, he discovered something awesome at his great-great-grandfather's house: a bunch of wood, screws, nails and washers. And with the help of his dad, Brennen used those materials to build special robots (shown in the picture).

Brennen learned he had a talent for building robots, so he started a business called Brennen's Brilliant Bots! First he sold his robots to family members. But then his business grew and grew, so his



Brennen!

dad built him a website to help him sell his robot creations.

All Brennen's robots are unique — they come in different shapes, sizes and colors, and some even have birthmarks, freckles or glasses! They are all different, just like us! Brennen uses his website to sell custom robots and do-it-yourself kits (so other kids can create their very own robots). But it gets even better! Brennen is very generous. He decided to give 10% of

the money he makes to buy chickens for families in need. He's already bought two! And now he's set his goal even higher: to buy a pig for a family in poverty!

If Brennen could talk to the families in need who receive the animals, he'd say: "I hope this pig or chicken might give you eggs or bacon!"

And he's totally right. Chickens give families a source of food — like eggs! Families can also sell eggs to make money to buy things like clothes, medicine or other types of food!

Brennen's bots are truly brilliant. They're creative AND they help people in need around the world! To find out more about Brennen's bots, check out [www.brennensbots.com](http://www.brennensbots.com).

**Brennen's advice for kids who want to start a business and raise money for families in poverty:**

**"Just start as a small thing, and get bigger and bigger!"**

**Calling  
all kids!**

Have you done something special to help Compassion-sponsored children? Let us know by emailing [compassionkids@compassion.com](mailto:compassionkids@compassion.com)!

## GROW

### YOUR closest NEIGHBOR



The Bible tells us to love our neighbors. Most of the time we think of neighbors as people on our street, or our "neighbor" in our classroom — but did you know that your neighbors also live in your house with you?

There are a lot of families in the Bible — and LOTS of brothers and sisters. And guess what? Many of them fought with each other! Do you ever fight with your brothers, sisters or cousins? Maybe because you feel jealous of them? Or sometimes they trick you or are mean to you?

Two brothers we learn about in the Old Testament are Jacob and Esau. They were twins who fought a LOT! Esau was born before Jacob. Being the first son born into a family was a big deal in those days! Because Esau was the firstborn, their father made special promises to him. That made Jacob jealous. So

he started playing tricks in hopes of getting what their father promised to Esau. Jacob's tricks made Esau SO mad! Jacob was afraid Esau would hurt him, so he ran away. But then — after years of not seeing each other — Jacob and Esau met again. Jacob thought Esau still wanted to hurt him. But guess what? Esau forgave him! The brothers hugged and made up.

God was able to show these two brothers that they were different from each other, but they were both special. And when they learned that, they could love each other better. (But they probably still fought a little!)

What happens when you butt heads with your family? Loving your brothers or sisters can be hard. But they're the first neighbors God gave you! Being in a family means forgiving each other again and again, just like Jesus told us to do.

### Matthew 18: 21-35

Peter asked Jesus how many times we should forgive our brothers and sisters when they mess up. Find out in your Bible how Jesus replied!



Today, will you forgive your brother or sister (or friend) for something they've done? And will you ask them to forgive you too? It will make you both feel so much better!



Have you had a fight or disagreement with your brother, sister or a friend this week? Talk to God about it, and ask him to help you get along. You could pray for patience and forgiveness.





# GIGGLE



**Submit your caption at:**

[explorer.compassion.com/giggles](http://explorer.compassion.com/giggles)

At a Compassion center in Bolivia, sponsored children dressed up as what they want to be when they grow up. Gabriel and Leonel, 8-year-old twin brothers in Bolivia, both want to be chefs. It's important for kids who live in poverty to dream about their futures because it gives them hope and inspires them to work hard in school!



## Explore at Home

Parents, is your family spending more time together at home lately? To help you make the most of it, we put together a collection of free lesson plans, devotionals and fun activities for kids!

[explorer.compassion.com/exploreathome](http://explorer.compassion.com/exploreathome)



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IN973 [05/20]

## About the cover

Dodson, 11, lives in Haiti with his mom, sister and little brother. They share a small one-room home. Even though they don't have many possessions, they have a lot of love for one another!

