



COMPASSION

explorer



LIGHTS, CAMERAS, ACTION!

If you're like many Explorers, you like taking photos and also seeing photos of kids around the world. This issue is all about photography! You'll meet some of the talented people who take photos of sponsored kids. And you'll get fun tips and ideas for taking your own photos!

GIGGLE

What wacky captions did Explorers come up with?

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DISCOVER myWORLD

Meet the photographers who share kids' stories.

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SPECIAL INSERT!

See what your new camera obscura does! So cool!

Special insert

Craft

Make a viewfinder so you can take great photos.

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Can you guess what close-up objects are in each photo?

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Cook

This Thai snack is a photographer's fave!

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Care

See how Josephine's cookie biz helps kids.

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GROW

God gave you the ability to do amazing things!

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GIGGLE

Remember this picture from the Spring 2023 Compassion Explorer Magazine? It shows toddlers Emely and Madison in El Salvador, who were graduating from Compassion's program that helps babies and moms. Here are some of your great captions! Find more at explorer.compassion.com/explorers.

Hmm ... I can see the future!!

Jonah, 12
Rabat, Morocco

Time to put my sunglasses on. 😎

Sage, 11
Columbia, Mo.

We don't need binoculars to see a bright future thanks to Jesus!

Phoebe, 13
Springdale, Ark.

Wait! Where's our tassels?

Naomi, 12
Tulsa, Okla.

Hey look mom I made it!

Lizzie, 12
Birmingham, Ala.

Look over there!

Salomé, 4
El Salvador

The flowers look very yellow, and our futures look bright!

Alicia, 6
New Brighton, Pa.

Oh look! A wild Emely bird!

Summer, 12
Apple Valley, Minn.

I see the celebration cake over there!

Isaa, 14
Windham, N.H.

Look fast! The future is coming in!

Grace, 12
Marion, Iowa

3, 2, 1, throw your hats!!

Shelby, 10
Charlotte, N.C.

Check out the next Giggle photo on the back cover!



¡Sonrisa!
(Smile!)



Swas̄dī !!
(Hello!)

Through My Lens



¿Qué onda?
(What's up?)



O/á!
(Hello!)

Meet Some Photographers Who Show You How Kids Around the World Live



Do you like to take pictures? What do you take pictures of?

There's a saying that one picture is worth a thousand words. That's because a simple picture can share so much information. With just a look, a photo can show you who was doing what, where, when and how.

A photo can capture people's emotions like joy or sadness. It can make you curious or even jog a memory of an experience you've had.

That's why we use so many photos in this magazine. They help you truly understand the stories and circumstances of the children who attend Compassion centers around the world.

But these photos don't just magically appear. People dedicate their professional lives to telling great stories through photographs. They're called photojournalists. We have photojournalists who work in all the countries where Compassion helps kids.



Would you like to meet some of them?

Today we'll learn about who brings you the amazing photos you see in this magazine and what it's like to do their job.

turn the page!

Group hug! Sara makes friends with the kids she photographs! She helps them dream about what they want to be when they grow up.



Meet Sara in Brazil

- Favorite snack for photo shoots:** Tangerines, Snickers® bars or fruit.
- Favorite music:** Music from other countries, especially Korea.
- Favorite thing to photograph:** People.



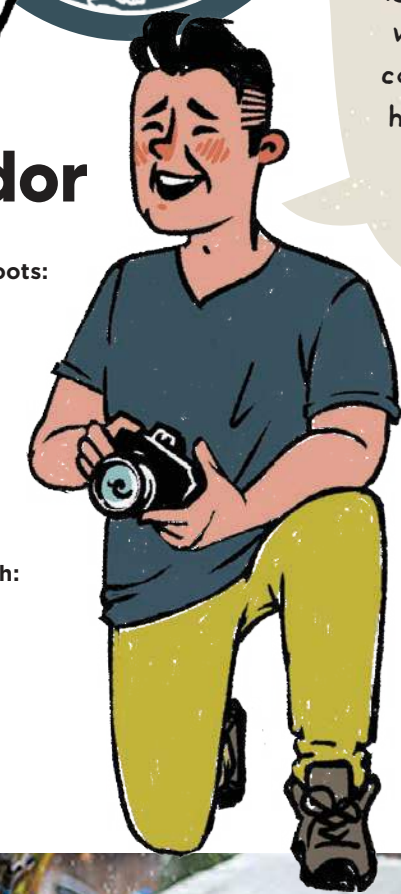
"Some people don't know how beautiful and valuable they are until someone tells them. That's why I love showing the people I photograph how beautiful and unique they are, whether they're Black, white, Indigenous or anything else," says Sara.



Meet Nico in Ecuador



- Favorite snack for photo shoots:** Granola bars.
- Favorite music:** Instrumental, classical or modern pop-rock.
- Favorite thing to photograph:** Portraits of smiling kids.



"It fills my heart with joy when I take portraits of the kids laughing and smiling and I can see the joy in their eyes. My dream is to take pictures of the reality of the world. I am always dreaming of how to communicate the beauty of the world and how we need to preserve God's creation and people. As a photographer, my dream is to help to make a better world," says Nico.



Rain, rain, don't go away. Nico was photographing sponsored kids one day when it started pouring. They all had a blast playing in the rain!

Meet Daniela in Mexico

Favorite snack for photo shoots:

Chocolate, gummy bears or chips.

Favorite music:

Folk-pop indie.

Favorite thing to photograph:

Smiling children and sunsets during the "golden hour" (a time in mornings and evenings when the light is great for photos).



"Once at a [Compassion] center, I was taking pictures of some sports activities that the staff organized. I was ready to capture a moment when suddenly I felt a slight tug on my shirt. I looked down and saw a little 3-year-old girl, who asked me if I could put my camera aside to play ball with her. She didn't have siblings, and her friend hadn't come that day," says Daniela.



Race to the top! Daniela loves to play with the kids she photographs. In this photo Daniela and some children race to the top of a hill.



Meet Piyamary in Thailand

Favorite snack for photo shoots:

Caramelized roasted peanuts (recipe on Page 13) or fried bananas in coconut batter.

Favorite music:

Gospel and worship.

Favorite thing to photograph:

People in their traditional clothes and homes, especially when they are smiling or laughing.



"My camera helps me to embrace the world with imagination. In my job, I meet people who have walked through some of the darkest shadows of life — poverty, violence, sickness, displacement. But I know we still hold to our humanity in the shadows. Even in the shadows there is hope. Hope lights my way as a photographer and storyteller," says Piyamary.

Happy to see hope! Piyamary poses with three boys in front of their Compassion center. Her job as a photojournalist is a chance for her to see hope in unexpected places.



What about you?

Would you want to be a photojournalist? If so, what stories would you like to tell? Ask an adult to email your answers to explorer@compassion.com, and we may share them in a future issue!

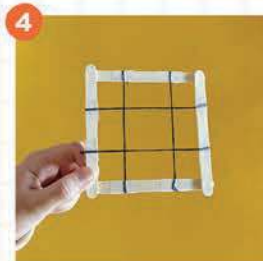


WHAT'S YOUR POINT OF VIEW?

Craft

MAKE YOUR OWN VIEWFINDER

A viewfinder is a simple tool for looking at the world around you. It's the perfect way to find your photo skills before you ask a grown-up to borrow a camera and take photos.



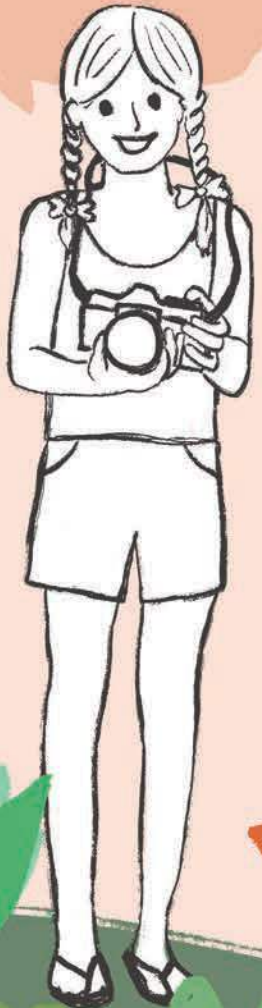
I Spy

Taking photos is a perfect way to show your point of view! First, learn about lining up your view with a homemade viewfinder, and then learn some fun photo tips to help you show your view.

Rule of Thirds

Take that viewfinder you made to learn about the rule of thirds. Pictures are more fun when you change up where the subject is within the frame. The rule of thirds just means to line up the subject of your photo in the middle of four of your viewfinder squares, where the lines overlap.

COLOR ME!



How do you see the world? Your point of view depends on so many things: where you look, how tall you are, what interests you.

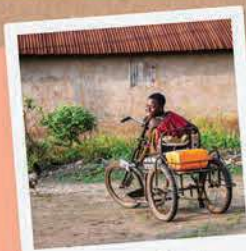
Photography Tips and Tricks



Zoom In

If you have an interesting subject, don't be afraid to fill the entire frame with it. Try to photograph a bicycle wheel, a flower or a fun pattern!

Sometimes zooming out is the answer instead of filling the whole frame. You can do this by leaving empty space in the photograph so the subject really stands out.



Zoom Out



Lighting

You can do lots with lighting! One easy trick is taking photos by a window in your house. Be careful of backlighting, which is when it's very bright behind your subject. It can make the person or thing you are photographing too dark to see.

"Perspective" is a fancy word for the view you have based on where you are. Photographers decide where to stand to capture the best view of their subjects. Perspective can also mean a way we see the world. **For example, when you learn about how kids in poverty live, you gain a new perspective.**

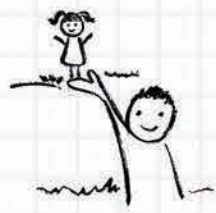


Perspective

A FUNNY PERSPECTIVE

Did you ever notice that things that are far away look tiny? Even mountains look small from far away. When you get closer, you see that they aren't tiny — it all depends on where YOU are. It's called "depth perception."

The Hand Shelf



Stuffed Godzilla



With the help of a trusted adult, visit our website for instructions to create your own funny perspective photos.

Seize the Moment Got the Zoomies!

Most cameras give you the option to zoom in on the subject you're photographing. That means you adjust the lens to make the subject of your photo look closer and bigger. Below are five zoomed-in sections of a photo. Can you guess what each one is a picture of?



Hint: The images here are all taken from photos in this issue of Compassion Explorer Magazine! If you get stuck, flip through the pages. If you get really stuck, find the page numbers on the back cover and look up the original photos.



Llama by Aynah, age 5



Cook

THAI
CARAMELIZED
ROASTED
PEANUTS



Do you like having snacks on trips? Photojournalists like Piyamary do too! Here is a favorite snack that you can try from her country, Thailand:

Ingredients

- 1½ c. raw peanuts with skin on
- ¾ c. sugar
- ¼ c. water, or just enough to cover the nuts
- 1½ tsp. butter
- 1 tsp. cocoa powder
- ¼ tsp. salt
- 3 tbsp. white sesame seeds, roasted



Directions

1. Prepare a large baking sheet with parchment or wax paper for the nuts to cool on when they are done.
2. Combine sugar, water, butter and cocoa powder in a wok or 8- to 10-inch nonstick pot. Heat over medium-high heat, stirring just until the sugar is dissolved.
3. Add the peanuts as soon as the sugar dissolves and bring the mixture to a simmer, turning down the heat to medium low.
4. Keep simmering at this temperature, stirring occasionally, until the syrup begins thickening, about 10 minutes.
5. The next four steps require special attention: When the mixture thickens, begin stirring constantly. The sugar should crystalize and will look like wet sand before becoming crumbly and dry. The now-powdery sugar mixture should evenly coat the peanuts as you stir.
6. Add in salt, continuing to stir over medium-low heat for a few more minutes.
7. Waiting only until all the peanuts have some sticky spots (not until the sugar liquefies completely), add the roasted sesame seeds and evenly coat the peanuts.
8. As soon as the peanuts are covered enough with sesame seeds, turn off the heat and spread the caramelized nuts on your baking sheet to cool.
9. Let nuts cool completely. Serve or store in an airtight container at room temperature.

Notes

To make this recipe even closer to how it is in Thailand, use 2 tsp. Ovaltine or Milo powder instead of the cocoa powder.

If your sesame seeds are not roasted, heat them in a dry skillet over medium-high heat, stirring constantly to avoid burning, until just golden.

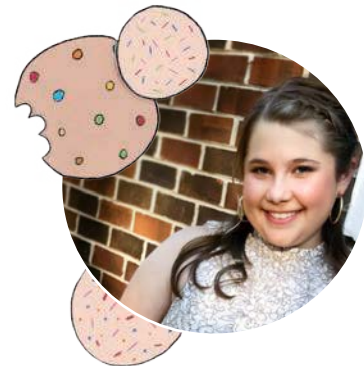


Josephine's Secrets to Sweet Success

How many 11-year-old business owners do you know?

Josephine was only 11 when she started Cookies 4 Compassion. Now 13, Josephine balances school and sports with running a cookie business. **And the coolest part? She gives some of the money she earns to her family's sponsored children!**

"I wanted to help donate to the [sponsored] kids we already had," Josephine says. Since she enjoyed baking, it seemed like the perfect way to raise money for a cause she cares about.



To start her helpful business, Josephine looked for cookie recipes, tested them and changed them up so they were her own. Next, her parents loaned her money to buy ingredients and supplies to package the cookies. Then she made fliers that said how buying her cookies (\$15 a dozen) helps support Compassion kids. After customers placed orders, Josephine baked, packaged and delivered the cookies.

Over two years, Josephine has sold 130 dozen cookies. **She was making enough money that her family decided they could sponsor a fourth child!**

She makes four main kinds of cookies: sugar, chocolate chip and M&M®, oatmeal raisin and fudgy chocolate brownie. **Her favorite ones to make are the sugar cookies because she likes decorating them.**

With the money from every order, Josephine pays off what she spent on ingredients and supplies, puts \$5 toward

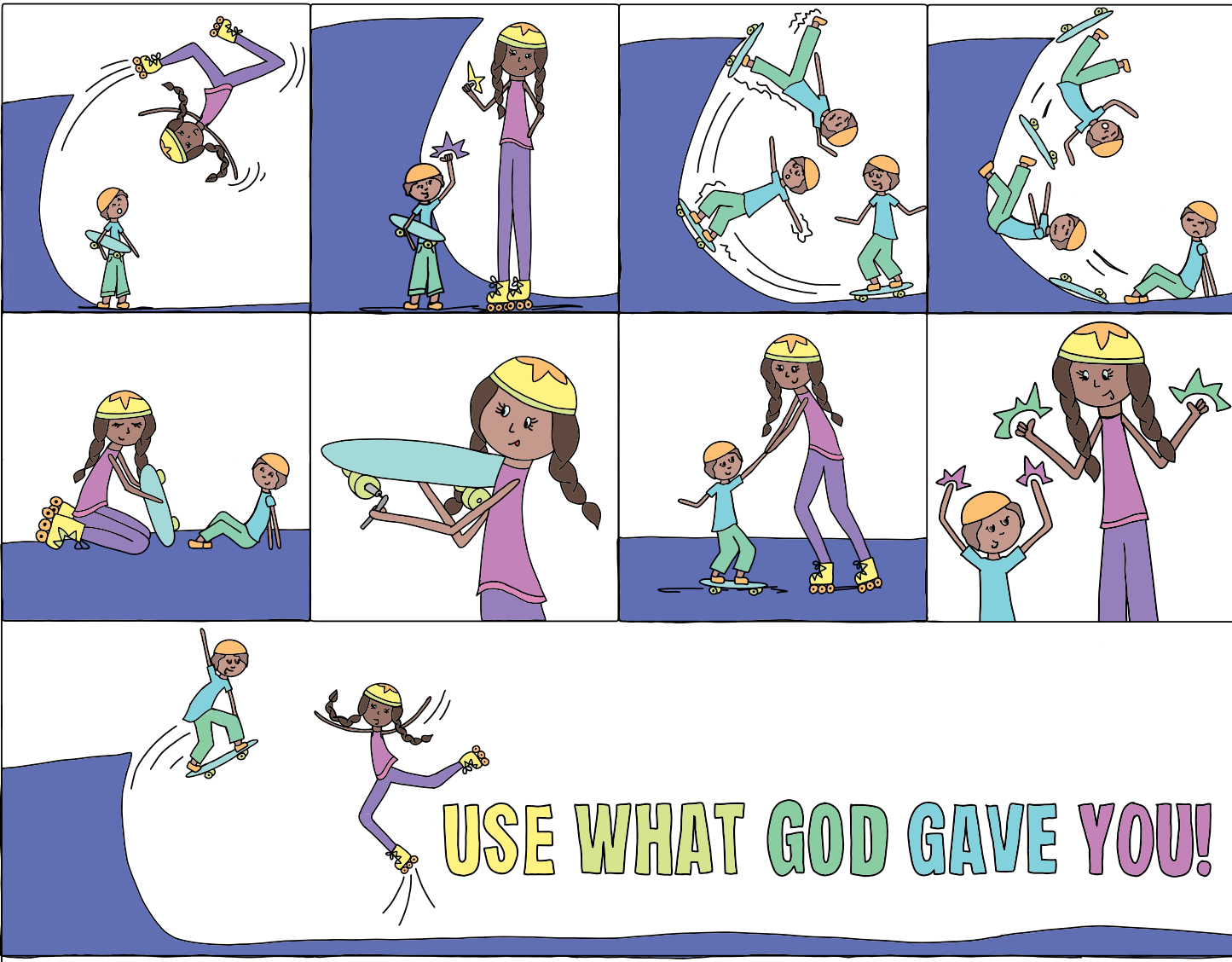
her family's sponsorships and puts the rest back into her business so she can keep doing it all.

So now you know HOW Josephine runs her business. **But WHY does she do it?** Why doesn't she just spend all the money on things she wants?

"I don't need to keep everything for myself, and there are kids around the world who could use it much more," she says.

Josephine says her parents have set a good example for her by sponsoring children through Compassion. "We've always had sponsored kids since as long as I can remember. **It kind of stuck with me all these years that giving is better than receiving.**"

Josephine has advice for kids who want to raise money for kids in poverty: **"You're never too young to do anything. ... There are always people out there willing to help you, and you can do it!"**



Have you ever been told you can do great things but found it hard to believe? The truth is that God, through Christ's sacrifice for us, made us able to do great things.

Some of us will use our time, resources or careers to do great things. Others may use our skills and passions to serve God.

This could even be through something as cool as photography, using creativity to share the good news of Christ, just like many of the photographers here at Compassion do! **No matter what our skills and passions are, God can use them for his glory and to make a difference in the world.**

In Ephesians, we see that Paul knew God had saved him, so he wanted to understand the good things God planned for him to do.

Paul had many talents he could use to help others to know Christ. For example, he was smart and could talk to people well. He was also a good leader. God used all these skills to help others learn how they could serve God with their lives.

As you read this, know that you can make a difference in this world because Christ has given you his life, strengthening you to know him and do good works ... and he has prepared that work for you!

So don't underestimate your ability to make a difference — believe that God has given you talents and will call you to use them to help others.

Yes, even you!

READ
Read a chapter of Ephesians each day. As you read about who we are in Christ, ask God for wisdom and trust to remember these truths.

ACT
Talk with your parent or Sunday school teacher about how you can encourage others with who they are in Christ. What are some things in Ephesians that tell us about our identity in Christ?

PRAY
"God, help me understand who I am in you and remember that you can use who I am to serve your people and share about Jesus. Help me to live out this truth and depend on you for strength!"



GIGGLE

Submit your caption at:

explorer.compassion.com/giggles

This is 11-year-old Juna. She goes to a Compassion center in Colombia. Her parents weren't making enough money to meet all her needs. So her center gave her chickens and garden seeds. The seeds grow food that Juna's family eats. The chickens have babies, which her family sells to buy food, clothes, medicine and other important items!



Summer Is Almost Here!

With an adult, go online to find activities, crafts and recipes to make the most of the next few months.

explorer.compassion.com/summer-fun

About the Cover

Pathum, a 10-year-old in Compassion's program in Sri Lanka, is ready to take some great photos with a digital camera. Pathum's goal is to be a photographer and businessman in the future.

