



*Then the Lord said to him,
“What is that in your hand?”*

“A staff,” he replied.

~ Exodus 4:2



DAY 1

WHAT IS THAT IN YOUR HAND?

Read Exodus 4:2

A friend wrote an article a few years ago titled, "20 People You Need in Your World Without Orphans Team". It was surprising how long the list was, of people who are needed for the work of changing the lives of vulnerable children.

Parents, pastors and ministry leaders, crisis families, church contact persons, mentors, analysts were named. The article also argued that you need some people with management skills as well as media managers, volunteers, young people, foster parents and advocates, experts, and champions of the cause. The list ended with two important persons. You and God are the two most important persons for taking action and bringing care, love, and positive change to the life of a vulnerable child.

As Saint Teresa of Avila said centuries ago: "Yours are the eyes through which Christ's compassion for the world is to look out; yours are the feet with which He is to go about doing good; and yours are the hands with which He is to bless us now."

Is there something I can do to bless the lives of orphaned and vulnerable children and families? Do I have something of value I can contribute?

If you are contemplating these questions, let me remind you of the moment in the story of Moses. When Moses contemplated whether he was competent enough to respond to God's calling, God asked him a simple question - "What is that in your hand?" "A staff," he replied. That question was pointing to something as ordinary to him as a rod or staff. Very likely he was using it daily as a walking stick or a shepherd's rod and considered it "ordinary". That may be the way you see what you have in your hand, be it time, skills, passion, expertise, desire to help, financial resources or knowledge.

These ordinary things can become the tools God is using to bring care and love to the lives of orphaned and vulnerable children. As we respond to His prompting for us to use what we have in our hands, however ordinary, rest assured that God, who is already intimately involved, will use it for His purposes in the lives of vulnerable children and families far beyond our imagination. Because God, our Father, sets the lonely in families. That's just who He is.



DAY 1

WHAT IS THAT IN YOUR HAND?

Reflection + Prayer Pointer

- *Petition* that our hearts be moved by compassion to work together with different gifts, skills and expertise in an effort to see children find a home in loving and caring families.
- *Pray* that the church as a body and its individual members recognise what “we have in our hands” to serve vulnerable families and children in our communities.

Respond + Call To Action

- *Engage*: Start conversations in your local church on how the church could be involved in ministries relating to vulnerable children and families in your communities and abroad.
- *Act*: Find out more about the needs of the organizations working with vulnerable children and families in your communities and abroad
- *Act*: Consider how “what I have in my hands” could support these organizations



World Without Orphans

Lubo Hlavacka, Global Team Member

World Without Orphans is a global movement of Christ followers who are committed to serving all children and families. It is manifested through grassroots movements, which implement family-based solutions for orphans and vulnerable children in their communities, nations and networks. Its mission is to call and equip national leaders to collaborate in solving their own country's orphaned and vulnerable children's crisis.

Find out more at <https://worldwithoutorphans.org>.