

# “Who’s Your Daddy?”

## Retreat Overview

This retreat is designed for middle school and high school students. You will need to break your students into small groups of 4-6 students with 1 leader. Each small group will have a host home from your church who will provide several of the meals and a place for the group to stay.

Throughout the course of the weekend, the participants will discover how physical adoption illustrates our need for spiritual adoption and how our spiritual adoption calls us to act for those who are in need of physical adoption. You may feel free to use any portion of this curriculum in your ministry.

### *The Schedule*

#### **Friday**

6:00 dinner (church building)

7:00 movie - Disney’s “Meet the Robinsons”

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- Watch the entire movie, break for 10 minutes, and then regather for discussion. You’ll want to *bookmark* the three clips ahead of time.

8:30 dessert

9:00 discussion

- Clip #1: Orphan Response A is the scene where Lewis introduces himself to a potential family and ends up spattering peanut butter all over the man. He then runs up to the roof of the building and considers his hopelessness in light of his poor performance. You can see the spiritual parallels of rejection, hopelessness, and wishful thinking.

- Clip #2: Orphan Response B is the scene where Goob is sitting alone in his room and the older Goob “the hatted man” comes in through the window. The older Goob tells his younger counterpart to internalize the guilt, anger and pain.

- Clip #3: From Orphan to Child is the scene after the battle with the dinosaur where Lewis is accepted into the Robinsons’ family and loved unconditionally. The spiritual implications are that of unconditional love and a mixture of Lewis’ disbelief and belief. He just can’t believe that they really love him, yet he knows that it’s true.

10:30 small group #1 (in homes)

12:00 head to bed

## Saturday

- 9:00 breakfast
- 9:30 small group #2
- 10:30 debriefing (church building)
- 12:00 cookout (children's home)
- 1:00 group games & service project

- We went to a local children's home for the afternoon. We brought food and had a cookout for the kids and house parents that live there. After lunch, we organized several hours of field games for our teens and the kids from the children's home. It was a good opportunity for our teens to demonstrate Christ's love for kids who are in tough family situations.

- We also helped with a service project at the children's home. We helped organize hundreds of donated canned goods.

- 3:00 leave children's home
- 3:30 small group #3 (church building)
- 4:30 free time
- 5:30 orphan prayer walk

- We set up four prayer stations in different parts of the church building. The small groups walked around to the different stations and spent 10 minutes praying about different issues and organizations related to adoption and orphans.

- 6:00 dinner

- Your students will have just prayed for world orphans who struggle to survive for lack of care, shelter and food. Now it's time for them to get a taste of many orphans' hunger. You'll want to have someone prepare porridge in advance so the teens have no idea that this is their dinner.

- Recipe for Porridge: Porridge is often made with maize flour. Maize flour can be purchased at many international grocery stores. To prepare, mix flour in a large pot with hot water, boil and serve. Add nothing else. If maize flour is not available, a common substitute would be a preparation of "grits" made with hominy flour.

- 6:30 large group meeting

- Show the short version of the documentary, "Invisible Children." This movie shows the extreme plight of thousands of orphans in war-torn Africa.

- Following the video, you may want to lead a brief discussion.

- Read the missionary letter from Uganda. It's important for the teens to see where God is at work in the world and how he is caring for world orphans. Our God cares for orphans! He also calls us to be his hands and feet in the world—to care for orphans in their distress. You may substitute a letter from your own church's ministry or mission to orphans.

- Following the missionary letter, one of our former teens shared her testimony. She was adopted as an infant by a loving family and has also been spiritually adopted by a loving Heavenly Father. Her testimony brought the two realities together poignantly.

8:00 small group #4 (building)

- Just before we got into our small groups, the pizza delivery man came in the door. I have never seen teens enjoy (and really appreciate) pizza more than they did that night!
- The pizza is a necessary component! It will energize them for their small group discussions.

9:00 sneaker hockey! (the pavilion)

- We ended the evening with a fun group activity at our local skating rink.

11:00 back to homes

12:00 head to bed

### **Sunday**

8:30 breakfast

9:30 worship (building)