



No time to Choose

A resource for church youth groups who are sponsoring a child through Chosen.

THANK YOU!

We are so glad that your youth group has signed up to be Chosen by a child through World Vision. By taking part in Chosen you are giving a child an amazing gift. The gift of choice. The opportunity to choose you as their sponsor may be the first significant choice that your child has ever had in their life. Plus your sponsorship will help to support the great work that World Vision is doing in their community, giving their generation choice and agency for the future.

In order to help the young people in your church understand more about the impact they are making, and to create a way that they can contribute to the financial support, we have come up with the concept of 'No Time to Choose'.

WHAT IS 'NO TIME TO CHOOSE'?

Essentially it is a sponsored event that allows young people to experience what a life with no, or limited, choices would be like. The hope is that that young people will be able to:

- Get an insight into the day-to-day life of their sponsored child

- Reflect on their own life and gain greater appreciation of the choices they have
- Allow God to grow their heart for social justice and the global poor
- Raise money to support their sponsored child and the wider community
- Bond with others in their youth group

HOW TO RUN AN EVENT

The most important feature of the event is to identify the choices that young people have each day and remove them as much as possible for a short period of time.

The second key feature is to run this as a sponsored event enabling the young people to raise money for their child's community.

Ironic as it might sound for an event that removes choices, there's loads of flexibility as to how you run your event! So be creative, and develop something that works best for your schedule and capacity, as well as what will be most impactful for your young people. To help you get started we've outlined a couple of suggestions for how it might run, and some of the ways you might remove choices from the young people in your group.



SOME EVENT IDEAS

IDEA 1 - EVENING EVENT

(this could be run in place of a regular youth night)

Think about all the choices that young people get on one of your regular youth nights and try to remove them wherever possible. You could even get the young people involved in planning by identifying the choices they have. Some suggestions might be:

- **BASIC SNACKS.** If you normally have a tuck shop or similar, then take away the choices and everyone gets a pre-determined bag of snacks. e.g. rice cakes, plain crackers, small piece of fruit. And only water to drink (you could even get the young people to fetch the water in a bucket from an outside tap)
- **DON'T CHANGE YOUR CLOTHES.** If you're meeting on a weekday evening tell the young people they have to keep their school uniform on from earlier that day. (And if they turn up in other clothes, have a bag of old clothes that they are allocated from!)
- **SET CHOICE OF BASIC GAMES.** Have some simple games that everyone is going to play, and don't include anything electronic or digital. If you want some ideas [this printable sheet](#) gives instructions to play mancala, a traditional game played all around the world.
- **REFLECT.** Make time at the end to reflect and discuss what the young people have just experienced. It would be a good time to look together again at any updates from your sponsored child on the online portal and make time to pray for them and their family.

IDEA 2 - SLEEP OVER EVENT

(you could call it 'Snooze, but don't Choose'!)

All the previous suggestions plus...

- **KEEP THE SAME CLOTHES ON.** Either tell the young people what they should wear in advance, or have a bag of old clothes that they get changed into on arrival. Whatever you opt for they must keep the same clothes on the whole time; for evening activities, to sleep in and to have breakfast.
- **SET MENUS.** Evening meal and breakfast could be a basic allocated menu (although be sensitive to dietary requirements, perhaps by making everything vegetarian!) E.g. rice and beans for dinner, plain bread for breakfast and only water to drink. Plus of course don't let them choose where they sit at the table!
- **EARLY START!** Make sure everyone is up early and has jobs they need to do. E.g. collecting water, making breakfast, tidying away the bedding (we will leave it to your discretion whether you give them the choice of having a wash!)
- **LIMITED SPACE.** If possible keep everything confined to one or two rooms (although allowing for boys and girls to sleep in separate rooms). This is where they will eat, sleep and socialise. That means they will need to clear up dinner before they can play any games, and will need to lay out and pack up their bedding before anything else can happen.



Some bonus ideas to make it even more interesting

- ★ Why not design an activity at some point during the event, where some young people have choices and others don't. For example a game where they have to make something and one team have a choice of materials, but the other team have to use only what they are given. Make time afterwards to discuss and reflect on the disparity of opportunities that exist in different parts of the world.
- ★ Give the young people a simple task they must perform at regular intervals throughout the event. It can be something as simple as everyone has to balance an object on head for a minute, and for those that don't there could be some consequences such as missing out on a snack. This could open up conversations about children who have to do daily tasks such as fetching and carry water everyday (often carrying very heavy buckets on their heads), and if they don't there are very real consequences.





FUNDRAISE AND GET SPONSORED!

We suggest that the young people are sponsored to take part in the event a way to raise funds for their child's community.

To sponsor your child costs £26 per month, which works out at **£312 for a year**. This seems like a reasonable target for a youth group to aim for in their fundraising.

To help you and your young people to get organised you might want to take a look at our [Top 10 fundraising tips](#). You could go through them with the young people and get them all involved in the process. For example a couple of young people could take responsibility for advertising in the church and another could think about how best to thank sponsors after the event.

Our recommended platform for sponsored fundraising is [JustGiving](#) as it is secure easy to use. A couple for things to note:

- If using JustGiving please ensure that you register with the same name and email address that you used when signing up for Chosen as this will help us to match you on our system.
- When asked to state which fund within World Vision you are raising for, please use your sponsored child's reference number or just state 'my sponsored child in Uganda'. Please DO NOT enter your child's name.

Once your money is raised and ready to be transferred to World Vision please phone our Supporter Care Team on 01908 84 10 10 to amend your existing direct debit and ensure that you are not paying twice for sponsorship.

worldvision.org.uk | [@WorldVisionUK](https://www.instagram.com/WorldVisionUK)     

At World Vision, our focus is on helping the most vulnerable children, in the most dangerous places, overcome poverty and injustice. Inspired by our Christian faith, we've worked together with communities, partners, local leaders and governments, for over 70 years, so that children – of all faiths and none – are empowered to experience fullness of life.



World Vision UK, World Vision House, Opal Drive, Fox Milne, Milton Keynes, MK15 0ZR

World Vision is a registered charity no. 285908, a company limited by guarantee and registered in England no. 1675552. Registered office as above.

VIDEO RESOURCES

To get young people excited before the event, and also to introduce the concept at the start of the event, you could show some of these videos:

Chosen promo videos

-  **Chosen | Let a child choose you as their sponsor**
- YouTube
-  **Change a child's life - sign up to be #Chosen**
- YouTube

CONTACT US

If you'd like to chat more about ideas for your event then please contact the Church Engagement Team. We'd love to hear about what you're planning, and help you in any way we can.

Email: churches@worldvision.org.uk

Tel: 01908 841010



PHOTOS IN ORDER THEY APPEAR: Gracious lives in Northern Uganda and is sponsored by World Vision, ©2021 Emmanuel A. Okello/World Vision; Residents of Pajule collect water from a local borehole. ©2022 Mwaka Godfrey/World Vision; One of the many families in Pajule, Uganda who are benefiting from sponsorship. ©2022 World Vision