

SESSION 1

Introduction to Together We Can Detective Club



VERSE: "Love your neighbor as yourself."

Mark 12: 31 NIV

READY: *Materials needed:*

- Copy of Calling All Super Sleuths Letter (below)
- Copies of Chicken template (cardstock suggested, access link to printables at werzoe.us/chickenbank)
- Glue dots (suggested) or glue
- Copies of Parent letter to be sent home with bank
- Jar, food take out box, or any other object to create your chicken bank
- Markers, crayon, decorative eyes (optional)

SET: *Reading the history of Zoe Empowers and exploring the website before beginning this unit will be helpful. For younger students or to save time having the bank pieces precut may be necessary.*

GO: *After children have been greeted and welcomed to the classroom read them the following:*

CALLING ALL SUPER SLEUTHS! WE HAVE A MYSTERY TO SOLVE!

Are you a curious kid with a talent for sniffing out clues? Will you help us solve a global mystery to help other children? Then YOU are just the super sleuth we are looking for! Welcome to the Together We Can Detective Club, we call it the TWC club for short. My name is Oliver and together with my sister Amelia we founded the TWC detective club a few years ago when some mysterious occurrences in our neighborhood needed solving. After we solved the initial case, we loved the thrill of solving puzzles so much we just kept at it. However, today we must focus on our biggest case yet and that is why we need YOU! It will take all of the greatest detective skills we can round up to solve this eyebrow raising and important mystery. Literally, the lives of other kids are depending on our incredible detective skills.

Your leader will tell you the dates and times that we will meet here at the TWC clubhouse. In these meetings we will get a briefing from our field agent, record weekly clues in our detective notebook, and participate in fun activities to help us build our super sleuth skills. Once we have all the clues we need to solve our mystery we will present a case report to our agency (also known as our congregation). The most important tools of a super sleuth are their eyes, ears, and brain so keep them focused at all times. Ready...let's get started!

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THIS IS THE MESSAGE WE RECEIVED FROM OUR FIELD AGENT THIS MORNING:

It has come to our attention that there are millions of children living without parents in countries all over the world. Many of their parents have died due to disease and now the children do not have enough food to eat each day and are not able to attend school. However, I have noticed an interesting pattern that has been detected in some countries where after 3 years the children in this unusual program grew from being hungry and alone to well fed, healthy, and able to take care of themselves. The only thing we have learned so far is that the name of the program is Zoe Empowers. We need strong detectives to find out what Zoe Empowers is and how we can share it with other children who are still in need.

CREATING A CHICKEN BANK

(Note for younger children or to save time consider cutting pieces out ahead of time)

PREACTIVITY CONVERSATION SPARKS

Leader will spend about five minutes talking with children about the food they eat, where it comes from, and the connection between chickens and income generation.

When you are hungry where do you get your food?

Who purchases the food for your family?

Do any of you live on a farm or have you ever visited a farm?

In many places all over the world there are not grocery stores and restaurants close to where people live so families grow their own food. Even when you grow your own food you still need money to buy seeds and animals.

If a family had a chicken...how do you think that could help them?

Answers will vary. Give children a chance to share ideas and then share these facts.

- The chickens produce eggs which help keep children healthy as they are rich in protein and other nutrients. Eggs or chicks can also be sold to buy other nutritious food.
- Chickens are easy and inexpensive to take care of as they can feed on whatever is around.
- Chickens are a good investment. They produce eggs or other chickens to sell.

We are going to make a chicken bank to take home and collect money for Zoe Empowers. Together with your family you can decide how you will make some sacrifices to help others. Sometimes families put the money they would spend going to a movie or eating out in the jar to show their support for the program. Have fun with your family coming up with ideas to save up!

Make banks

Distribute Parent Letter and send home with banks

Prayer: Lord we are thankful for the food that you give us every day. We pray for the children we have learned about today and that you will bless our efforts to collect money for Zoe Empowers. ***Amen.***



Dear Parents,

Your child is participating in a mission study unit focusing on Zoe Empowers. Zoe Empowers along with church partners work to move children from poverty to empowerment in three years. The distinctive, holistic model provides the vital relationships, training, and resources to empower young participants to overcome the isolation and stigmatization associated with extreme poverty. This three-year empowerment program leads to dignity, self-sustainability, and community transformation.

As a part of our unit, your child created a chicken bank to collect funds to support the work of Zoe Empowers. The list below gives you an idea of just how far a few dollars can go! We encourage you to make this a family project. Some families save the money they would spend on extra treats like movies or eating out, while other families have garage sales. Children are so creative in their ideas to raise funds for Zoe Empowers, so have fun! For more ideas and tools to help you visit

<https://zoeempowers.org/get-involved/fundraise/>

Please return the jar with funds on _____

- \$6 One watering can helps children water growing plants.**
- \$15 A set of cooking utensils for a child to become a baker.**
- \$25 A chicken to have eggs to eat or sell.**
- \$50 A goat or pig to raise.**
- \$150 A sewing machine for a child to become a tailor.**
- \$250 Bibles for an empowerment group of 60-100 children**
- \$500 Vocational Training and small business start up materials**