



Group Leader: What to Know

2 Timothy 2:15 NIV "Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth."

This four week session is about Living Stones:

- Please make sure to look over each page before you present it
- If you have any questions, feel free to e-mail rachel@worldrenewal.org
- The four graphics on this page are available in high resolution, screen size to put up on the big screen/TV, or you can use the handouts for the kids to take home: whatever works best for your group
- The YouTube channel "Building Living Stones" and the website Worldrenewal.org/sponsor-a-child has a ton of wonderful resources to get to know Living Stones better. I would suggest starting with the "World Renewal Living Stones" video to get started



World Renewal
est. 1986
Helping plant Christ-
centered churches and
leaders



World Renewal Brazil
est. 1993
Reaching the Lost through
the local church



Living Stones
est. 1998
Church planting through
child sponsorship

Love
Educate

Nourish
Direct to Jesus

We don't just sponsor kids because of the great commandment: we also sponsor them because of the great commission.

EVANGELIZE AND DISCIPLE

Through IMPACT outreach ministries, we assist local churches planting new churches. One of the kids in the community embraces Jesus and becomes involved in the church, which leads him to be a part of IMPACT outreaches in new communities, and furthers his discipleship.

EDUCATE AND EQUIP

As this child grows through our scholarship program, he is equipped for future educational opportunities such as the international school, seminary, technical or business training, and eventually a college degree.

GENERATE AND REINVEST

Now this adult is prepared for a lifetime of ministry such as being a church planter, teacher, or working with one of our many business as mission (BAM) projects, planting churches. These leaders become our strategic workers to fulfill the great commission to the ends of the earth.

Get to know Living Stones: How it all Fits Together

1 Peter 2:5 NIV "You also, like **living stones**, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ."



World Renewal
est. 1986
helping plant Christ-centered churches and leaders



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Reaching the Lost through the local church



Living Stones
est. 1998
Church planting through child sponsorship

Living Stones is church planting through child sponsorship:

- Living Stones was started in 1998 by Pastor Assuerio, who is a missionary with World Renewal Brazil
- Living Stones is a child sponsorship program that reaches out to the 30+ poorest children in a community. This can be to plant a church, or to grow the ministry of an already existing church
- Living Stones is in local churches connected with World Renewal Brazil. World Renewal Brazil is one of the 51+ countries that World Renewal partners with
- Living Stones works through local leaders who LEND: give Love, Education, Nutrition, and Direction to Jesus

Pray For:

- World Renewal, World Renewal Brazil, and Living stones
- The churches in Brazil that have a Living Stones program
- The communities that want to start a church and Living Stones program
- The local leaders that are loving their communities through Living Stones
- The kids in the Living Stones program

Questions to talk about:

- What is Living Stones?
- Why do you think it is called "Living Stones"?
- What does Living Stones do?
- Who started Living Stones?
- Why do you think it was started?
- How is World Renewal Brazil, and World Renewal connected to Living Stones?
- What do you think a normal day at Living Stones looks like?
- Why is Living Stones important?
- What does LEND stand for?
- Why does Living Stones do LEND?

Something Extra: If you'd like to learn more, check out the "Building Living Stones" YouTube channel!

Get to know Living Stones: Child Sponsorship

Matthew 19:14 NIV "Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."



Child sponsorship is a proven* way to help kids:

- You can check out *compassion.com/does-child-sponsorship-work for the research study done
- Living Stones helps kids, but it also plants and grows a church as well: the kids come during the week, and the invite their families to come to church on Sunday
- Living Stones LENDS: Loves, Educates, Nourishes, and Directs to Jesus
- Sponsored children receive tutoring four times a week, trained in character and life skills, and are connected to the local church and leaders
- Most of these children come from broken homes and live in poverty (that means living off of less than \$1.90 a day says worldbank.org)

Pray For:

- Child sponsorship programs around the world
- Children and families in poverty around the world
- Living Stones leaders, churches, children, and sponsors
- Creative ways to solve the problems that poverty brings
- The day when there will be no more poverty!

Questions to talk about:

- Why do you think child sponsorship is a proven way to help kids around the world?
- How can child sponsorship help plant a church?
- What are the things that a child sponsorship should make sure to do?
- Why would a child need a child sponsorship program? What might their life be like?
- What does it mean to live in poverty?
- How does being poor make it hard to get an education?
- How does being poor make life hard?
- What are some ways to help someone in poverty?

Something Extra: At Worldrenewal.org/sponsor-a-child, there is a free download called "20 years of stories"

Get to know Living Stones: Church Planting

Luke 15:4 NIV "Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Doesn't he leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it?"



Living Stones started with a simple idea:

- Pastor Assuerio walked down the street from his church and saw a home with three young boys. Their mom had abandoned them, and their father was gone drinking.
- Pastor Assuerio thought "How can we have these children suffering, with no help, and an empty church down the street where we could help them?"
- Through the week, Living Stones provides the basic food, education, and love needs of the kids, and on the weekend invites the rest of their family to join in and hear the Good News
- With the great commandment (love others) and the great commission (tell them the Gospel), how can we NOT do Living Stones?

Pray For:

- The pastors and local leaders with Living Stones
- Courage to ask God to show us the needs around us and their solutions
- Ways to do the great commandment and the great commission
- The physical and spiritual needs of the Living Stones children

Questions to talk about:

- What would you have done if you'd seen what Pastor Assuerio saw?
- When God shows us a need, He will also help us find a solution. What are some needs that you have seen? What do you think God wants you to do about them?
- Why are churches so important? What difference does a church make?
- What is the great commandment and the great commission?
- How can they work together?
- Why is it important to help with physical needs and spiritual needs, and not just one or the other?

Something Extra: At Worldrenewal.org/sponsor-a-child, there is a free download called "Missions ABCs"

Get to know Living Stones: Changing the Story

Luke 8:8 NIV "Still other seed fell on good soil. It came up and yielded a crop, a hundred times more than was sown..."

EVANGELIZE AND DISCIPLE

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What is the point of Living Stones?

- Living Stones meets the physical (food/education/health) and spiritual (Jesus) needs of kids and their families
- World Renewal Brazil (that Living Stones works under) does three things: evangelize & disciple, educate & equip, and generate & reinvest
- Living Stones wants to provide the opportunities for all of the children receive and do all of these six things
- Our goal is to not just have the children finish school, but to be able to be the future local leaders leading Living Stones, planting churches, changing their community, and being missionaries to all kinds of places: many that are closed to Americans, but not to Brazilians.

Pray For:

- Living Stones kids to become local leaders and missionaries to the world
- World Renewal Brazil to be able to send out missionaries to places that are closed to hearing about Jesus
- Living Stones kids to fall in love with Jesus
- Lasting change in communities because of the Living Stones kids

Questions to talk about:

- When does child sponsorship end?
- What does success mean for child in child sponsorship?
- How does a child go from being sponsored to being a leader helping other children?
- What does it mean to evangelize & disciple?
- What does it mean to educate & equip?
- What does it mean to generate & reinvest?
- How can Living Stones help children through each part of World Renewal's goals?
- Why is it important to not just have the goal of the children finishing high school?

Something Extra: At Worldrenewal.org/sponsor-a-child, there is a free download called "20 years together"