

involve everyone in some way.

When the house is finished, summarize the idea of building a house that is strong because it is full of the love of Jesus.

6 Explain Habitat for Humanity

Explain that just like Geovanne and Crystal needed a new house, there are many, many other boys and girls around the world who do not have a safe house in which to sleep tonight. Also remind the children that all around the world people want to show the love of Jesus by helping others. Explain that Habitat for Humanity helps bring people together so they can build houses with families who need help.

If your church is involved in a Habitat project, offer the specifics of your build. If not, suggest that the children could ask their parents about finding out ways to help Habitat for Humanity build houses.

Consider "What can I do?"

Introduce this idea by saying something like the following:

So, we have heard about people who are living in houses where they don't feel safe and where they get cold and wet. And we have heard about people from churches who are willing to help build Habitat houses. But what can we do?

- Stand up if you think the people in our class can build a house all by ourselves.
- Stand up if you think the people in our class can pay for all the materials it takes to build a house (thousands of dollars).

Quickly change the course of conversation by suggesting things your class members *can* do. Choose any or all of the following options:

- Distribute the Habitat for Humanity calendars and house banks. Explain how the calendar works by going through your classroom and pointing out examples. Have the children guess how much they can collect. Assure them that they can ask for additional donations.
- Decorate nail aprons. Volunteers love these. Ask home improvement stores to donate nail aprons (complete with their logos). Have the boys and girls add their handprints or decorate the aprons in other ways. You will need acrylic paints and possibly brushes, newspapers to cover the work surface and plenty of clean-up materials. Extra helpers will make this easier.
- Put stickers on lunch bags that other people in the church will use for packing lunches for the building volunteers. You may also want to write a verse of Scripture or the words "We are building strong houses with the love of Jesus" on index cards for the children to decorate. Include the cards in the lunch bags.

7 Close with prayer

Emphasize the power of prayer. Lead the boys and girls in praying for families who need a new house. Also encourage them to pray that God will help your church as you work on a Habitat for Humanity house. Offer prayers of thanks that God can use the boys and girls in your class to help other people.

