**2026 AiG VBS**

**Recipient Child Stories**

**DAY 1: Meet Hani from Ethiopia**

WHERE: Ethiopia is a country in East Africa. Nearly 70% of Ethiopia’s population experiences multidimensional poverty, considering factors like health, education, and access to basic services.

WHO: Hani and her brother were used to days when they only had one meal per day. In fact, there were some days when they didn’t eat at all. It all depended on whether her mother could find work that day. With very little education, she had to rely on day labor, which didn’t pay much. If she couldn’t find work or had to spend what little she made on medicine or other essential needs, Hani and her brother had to go hungry.

When the pastor of a local church brought Hani and her family food and taught them how to grow vegetables and raise goats and chickens, she was overjoyed! Her family finally had a way to ensure they always had food to eat! The pastor also shared with them the good news that Jesus loves them! That was the best thing the pastor shared with Hani, and it gave her hope.

**DAY 2: Meet Ivanna from Romania**

WHERE: Romania is a country in southeastern Europe. It shares part of its northern border with Ukraine. Since the war that broke out in Ukraine, more than 1.6 million refugees have come to Romania seeking safety.

WHO: Ivanna and her sisters had to leave their home very quickly. There was hardly any time to pack, and they had to travel light. Ivanna knew that she would probably never be returning home again. She didn’t know where her family would end up, only that they were moving away from the fighting. The important thing was that they were together, and they were safe.

Ivanna’s parents were able to pack enough food to safely travel to Romania, but they didn’t know what would happen once they arrived. They heard about a local church that was helping other displaced people and were able to find a place to stay. Ivanna had to leave so many of her books behind, so when the pastor gave her a Bible, it was a precious gift, and it told her all about Jesus!

**DAY 3: Meet Luciana from the Philippines**

WHERE: The Philippines is a country in Southeast Asia made up of 7,641 islands. Because of its location on the western edge of the Pacific “Ring of Fire,” marked by trenches and active and dormant volcanoes alike, the Philippines is prone to many natural disasters, including floods, cyclones, droughts, earthquakes, tsunamis, and landslides.

WHO: Luciana’s home collapsed in an earthquake. Now, it sits at an angle. Although it seems stable, another earthquake or a strong storm could destroy it completely. Luciana and her family still live in their home because they have nowhere else to live. Her parents can’t afford the repairs on their house while also providing food for eleven people.

When a pastor showed up at Luciana’s house with a Food Pak, she hoped things would finally get better. The food meant that her parents could afford to start making repairs to their home, but they also shared with them about Jesus. Now Luciana has a new kind of hope.

**DAY 4: Meet Hugo from El Salvador**

WHERE: El Salvador is a country in Central America, southeast of Mexico. Roughly 24% of the population lives in rural communities. Poverty in these rural areas can be a significant problem due to a lack of education, access to resources, and limited job opportunities.

WHO: Hugo has never known a life where regular meals were guaranteed. Whenever there was food, he was thankful to be able to eat. When he went to bed hungry, he was grateful he had a roof over his head and a soft place to sleep—even if he had to share it with his siblings. Hugo knows there must be something better than the life he’s lived, but he doesn’t know what he can do to change his future.

When someone from the church started bringing Food Paks to Hugo’s family, Hugo was excited. Now that they had regular access to food, he wouldn’t go to bed hungry at night! He also didn’t have to help his father in the fields as much, so he could go to school and maybe someday get a good job. Even more importantly, the people from the church shared with Hugo’s family about Jesus! There is so much singing and rejoicing in their home now.

**DAY 5: Meet Sebastian from the United States**

WHERE: Today, we’re going to meet someone who lives in the United States. Poverty in the United States is not always easy to spot because someone can be living in a house or an apartment. Children can attend school but do not have anything to eat when they go home. It can be difficult to tell that they are in need.

WHO: Sebastian knows what it feels like to be in need. Despite living in one of the wealthiest countries in the world, he used to sleep in the back seat of his family’s car. Thankfully, he could blend into the crowd at school since he wore a uniform and could get a free lunch just like everyone else, but he knew he was different, mainly when the other kids talked about the expensive things they had and the places they went.

Sebastian was happy when the man from the church offered them a place to stay. Even though it was small and only for a short time, it was better than the car. It gave his parents a chance to look for work so they could find a new place to stay. The Food Paks meant Sebastian and his siblings wouldn’t be so hungry at night. Even more importantly, the man told Sebastian all about Jesus and how much He loves him.