

Title: God Gave Leisa A Baby

Theme: Adoption: everyone needs a family

Scripture: Romans 8:15 "The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father."

Supplies Needed:

- PCUSA Mission Co-Worker Prayer Cards of Leisa Wagstaff from the Presbyterian Office
- Baby Doll wrapped in a blanket

Children's Sermon: Hello everyone, I want to show you a picture of a missionary our Church helps. Her name is Leisa Wagstaff. She lives in Africa in a country called South Sudan, and she is a very important person. She is the leader of a school and teaches people about Jesus.

Leisa has always loved Jesus. When she was a little girl she learned about Jesus in Church. She went to Sunday school; she went to Church on Sunday night, and on Wednesday night, and as much as she could. She liked Church very much. Leisa knew that even though she was little, God had big plans for her life. Leisa wanted to grow up and become a teacher, so she could teach people about God and the Bible. Isn't that a great idea! But Leisa's Church was a little different, they didn't think girls were allowed to teach people about the Bible, and since Leisa was a girl, she didn't know what to do.

One day, when Leisa was older, she took a trip to a country in Africa called Sudan. In Sudan there are two big rivers. One river is called the White Nile and the other river is called the Blue Nile, and there is a place where the two rivers come together to form the Big Nile – kind of like Pittsburgh!

(Use hand motions to help describe) Well, in Sudan they say that if you put your toe in the place where the White Nile and the Blue Nile come together to form the Big Nile, then you will always come back to Sudan. And do you know what Leisa did? She put her toe right there in that river and she knew that one day she would go back to Sudan to teach people about Jesus. When Leisa came back to America, she went to a different Church, one that let a girl be a pastor. Leisa went to a Presbyterian Church like ours, and that Church sent her back to Africa so she could teach people about Jesus.

Leisa was happy. She taught mostly boys and girls your age, and she loved the children too. But Leisa didn't have any children of her own. And sometimes this made her sad, because every day after school the boys and girls she taught went home to their mommies and daddies, and Leisa was sad because she didn't have a baby, and she didn't have a husband, and she felt all alone.

But do you know what happened? (Hold the baby doll all wrapped up) One day there was a little baby born in the village, and the mommy and the daddy couldn't take care of this baby, so the baby cried and cried because nobody could take care of it. (Rock the baby doll) Some people who knew the baby went to Leisa and asked if she would adopt the baby and be the baby's mommy.

Leisa didn't know what to do. She didn't know if the baby was a boy or a girl; she didn't know if the baby was sick or healthy, happy or sad, she didn't know anything about the baby. So Leisa prayed, and God told Leisa to adopt the baby. So Leisa said, "God, this is not something I have chosen. You have given this baby to me." The next day Leisa told the people she would adopt the baby, and do you know what kind of baby it was? (Unwrap the baby) It was a girl, a 5 month old little girl, who was healthy and very happy to have a new mommy. (Show them the baby doll) Now that little girl is all grown up, and Leisa is still teaching boys and girls in Sudan about Jesus.

That's the story of Leisa. And now you have this card so you can remember and pray for her, and remember that every time you give money to this Church, some of that money goes to helping her teach others about Jesus.

Let's Pray. Dear God, thank you for calling Leisa to be a missionary in Africa and for her obeying your call to go there. Thank you for giving her baby to love and care for. We ask for loving parents for all of the children in that country where so many parents have died because of war, fighting and poverty. We have been so blessed with families, plenty of food and safe homes. Help us to do our part to share what we have with Leisa and those you love in that far away country. Amen.

