



CHILDHOOD **LOST**

POVERTY SIMULATION

Make the issues of child slavery and poverty personal.

Some choices should never have to be made. Through the Poverty Simulation, your group will discover how poverty can force families into making decisions that are difficult—even unimaginable—just to survive. And they'll see the potentially devastating results that often follow.

The truth can be difficult to take in, but it has the power to change lives. Help your group learn about the urgent needs of those living in poverty, and inspire them to take action and make a difference for others in our world, as Jesus calls us to do.

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Overview

The Participants

College, high school, or middle school groups. (While the main audience is students, this simulation works great with adults too.) Adaptable to any group size from two to 60+.

The Main Components: the Story and the Stations

The Story

Your group will walk in the shoes of Anika, a fictional girl in Bangladesh. Anika and the challenges she faces are a representation of the experiences of millions of children living in poverty today. By stepping into Anika's life, your group will see for themselves that the choices faced by families in the developing world are often choices between bad and worse—and that many have little hope for building a better future.

**NOTE: Your group will be informed that their decisions will affect the ultimate quality of Anika's life. Be aware that, reflecting global realities, most scenarios do not have a happy ending. Participants should come out of the experience feeling somewhat frustrated; that's part of the experience.*

The Stations and the Individual Challenge

In addition to the small-group story experience, there's an Individual Challenge component. Each time a group chooses an option for Anika, they will be directed to a new "station." Each station represents a different element in an impoverished child's world—a well, a marketplace, a health clinic, a schoolroom, a factory, a dinner table, and a shelter.

Individual Challenge Worksheets

At the beginning of the experience, each participant will be given an Individual Challenge worksheet. At each station, they'll face an "Individual Challenge" and record the results, along with the answer to a specific question that is answered at the station.

Station Cards and Posters

Each station will have a card with a "do" portion and a "read" portion. Participants will first follow the "do" instructions, then sit as a group while their group leader shares the "read" portion.

How each participant performs or answers during the "do" portion will determine how well they fare in that category. Sometimes the outcome is random, highlighting the fact that poverty and hardship are unfair—affecting some people and not others.

Overview (cont.)

Station Cards and Posters (cont.)

Each station will all have a different poster featuring a fact about the topic and a related Bible verse. Participants will record the outcome of the challenge, along with a personal reflection relating to the station.

Once the station card is completed and participants have tracked their Individual Challenge results, they'll receive more information about Anika and the next step in her story and move on to face another decision as a group.

*NOTE: Not everyone will reach all of the stations during this experience.

Concluding

Participants will be given time at the end to debrief as a large group—including sharing about their various story outcomes, their results in the Individual Challenge, and how they worked as a team. They will also be challenged to think about what they have learned through this experience.

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Getting Ready

Ahead of time

Make sure you read through all of these materials so you have a good understanding of the entire experience.

See “Supplies Needed” for a list of everything you’ll need to gather in advance—from general supplies to supplies for each station. Also, see “Downloadable items” and make sure you have printed out everything your group will need, including the Individual Challenge worksheets. Lastly, make sure you have the individual stations set up ahead of time. This shouldn’t take more than a half hour.

OPTIONAL ACTIVITY

Feel free to decorate each station beforehand according to what it represents.

For example, you could use sticks, straw, or cardboard to decorate the “shelter” station. *(These supply items are not included in the supply list; you’re encouraged to get creative and come up with your own ideas!)*

Prepare your group

To begin, divide your group into smaller groups of equal size if possible (it’s okay if one group is bigger or smaller than the others; it won’t affect the outcome). The minimum number of participants in each group is two, since there should be more than one opinion reflected in every choice. It’s best to have no more than seven groups, to ensure there is no more than one group at a station at a time.

Each group will need a volunteer who is willing to serve as a peer leader. This person will read the story to their group as they proceed and read the station cards aloud as they make their way through the stations. This person will not participate in the decision-making process or in any of the station challenges.

When groups make decisions, they must do so as a team. They will need to decide how to deal with ties or differing opinions in the group. Leave the agreement process up to them—this is part of the experience.








How it works

Participants will gather in their individual groups and listen as you introduce Anika’s story to everyone. They will then be presented with a scenario and be given a choice between two options. At this point, the large group will split into their smaller groups to make this first choice. How they choose will determine the next steps for each group.

As participants move through the experience, they will face a series of these scenarios and choices, with a total of five decisions. The group leader will need to keep track of each choice the group makes so that participants can reflect on each step at the end.

Supplies Needed

Downloadable items

-  **“Becoming Anika” story:** One copy for every group leader
-  **Visuals:** Photos of each character, along with their names and the phonetic pronunciations (tape these to the wall before reading the introductory story to help participants identify with the characters)
 - “Anika” (“Uh-NEE-kuh,” main character, oldest daughter, age 13)
 - “Samir” (“Suh-MEER,” father)
 - “Priya” (“PREE-yuh,” mother)
 - “Hena” (“HEE-nuh,” sister, age 5)
 - “Reshmi” (“RESH-mee,” sister, age 2)
-  **Station cards:** Print one of each
-  **Station posters:** Print one of each
-  **Individual Challenge worksheet:** Print one for every participant
-  **“The Factory” matchbox activity:** Print one for every participant
-  **“The Schoolroom” Poverty Quiz:** Print one for every participant

General supplies

- **Pencils:** One for every participant and each group leader
- **Tape:** To hang posters at each station
- **Tables or chairs:** To serve as each station

Station supplies

NOTE: These are broken out by **station**.

The Well

- One mug per small group, or large disposable cups (must be sturdy)
- A pitcher of “dirty” water (dump loose tea leaves into warm water and let the pitcher sit for at least an hour before the experience begins)
- A pitcher of clean water
- Dixie cups, one for each participant
- A black marker (to make an “X” on someone’s hand if they put their cup down at any point during the experience)



ANIKA 13 years old



SAMIR Father



PRIYA Mother





HENA 5 years old



RESHMI 2 years old

Supplies Needed (cont.)

The Factory

- One copy of the **matchbox worksheet** for every two participants [print this ahead of time] 
- One copy of the **matchbox instructions** [print this ahead of time] 
- Scissors
- Tape

The Dinner Table

- **Dixie cups, one for each participant** (each will contain one of the following five options; each participant will get only one type of food)
- **Grapes** (2-3 per Dixie cup)
- **Instant rice, cooked and cooled** (bite-sized portions*)
- **Stale bread crumbs** (bite-sized portions*)
- **Chopped raw onions** (bite-sized portions*)
- **Spam cut into cubes** (bite-sized portions*)


* Bite-sized means approximately two tablespoons of each item.

NOTE: If you have 25 participants (five in each group), you will need five Dixie cups of grapes, five of rice, five of bread crumbs, five of onions, and five of Spam cubes, for a total of 25 cups of food—only one for each participant.

Label each set of food items from 1 to 5.

1. Grapes
2. Cold cooked rice
3. Stale bread crumbs
4. Chopped raw onions
5. Spam cubes

The Schoolroom

Poverty Quiz [print this ahead of time] 
One copy per participant

Shelter

Rocks and sticks for each group, numbering less than the number of people in each group (for groups of five, you'll want three items; for groups of 10, you'll want eight items, etc.). Place these in a pile at the station.

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Stations

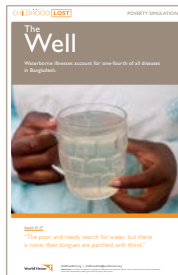
The Well: Overview for leaders

At this station, one member of each group will half-fill a cup with water, which will need to be carried for the duration of the experience. (The original carrier may share the burden with another participant at any time.) Each participant will drink a Dixie cup of “dirty” water (weak tea with tea leaves) before moving on.

*NOTE: Do not tell the group ahead of time that the “dirty water” is just tea.

The takeaway:

Participants will understand the challenges of finding and carrying water each day; have the experience of drinking “dirty” water; and learn compelling facts about the effects of water and sanitation on the lives of families in poverty.



Print ahead of time:

Well Station Card 

Well Station Poster 

The Factory: Overview for leaders

Participants are given a matchbox template that they must assemble before the group can advance. The participant whose first name is first in alphabetical order is exempt from this task.

The takeaway:

Participants carry out a simple task representative of the type of repetitive work that child laborers do every day, and learn about the dangers children face working as slaves or indentured servants. They also recognize how unfair it is that children in other parts of the world are more vulnerable to conditions like this than we are during our childhoods.



Print ahead of time:

Factory Station Card 

Factory Station Poster 

Stations (cont.)

The Schoolroom: Overview for leaders


Participants are given a true-or-false quiz on poverty and are awarded a survival score.

The takeaway:

Participants learn about poverty and are introduced to facts about education: how it affects a child's future, and how things like diet and lack of money for supplies or uniforms are obstacles to achieving the education they deserve.



Print ahead of time:

- Schoolroom Station Card 
- Schoolroom Station Poster 

The Health Clinic: Overview for leaders

Participants must stand on one foot as long as they can. When half of the group is unable to continue balancing on one foot (or when one minute has passed), stop the challenge. Tell those who had to put a foot down that they are sick and have no money to pay for medical care. Have each participant record on their Individual Challenge sheet whether they received medical care or could not afford it.

The takeaway:

Participants learn facts about health, and consider the injustice of being unable to pay for basic healthcare.



Print ahead of time:

- Health Clinic Station Card 
- Health Clinic Station Poster 

Stations (cont.)

The Dinner Table: Overview for leaders

This station requires advance preparation of small cups of food for each participant. The cups should be set out in groups by type, with participants eating only what they are assigned. The Dixie-cup-sized portions range from nutritious food to options that most might consider unappealing. They should be arranged in order from “best” to “worst.” Participants must eat their assigned item before they may move on.

NOTE: *If a participant food allergy or a serious aversion to a particular food item, have them sit this challenge out.*

The takeaway:

Participants learn that many people have no choice about the type or quantity of food they get to eat, and will be introduced to facts about hunger and malnutrition.



Print ahead of time:

The Dinner Table Station Card 

The Dinner Table Station Poster 

The Marketplace: Overview for leaders

At this station participants will be asked to count the change (no bills) in their pockets or their purses (if they have them). Those who have more than \$1 in change will be told they qualify for a loan from a loan shark who will charge them 50% interest. Those with less than \$1 will be told they don't qualify for a loan and must beg to feed their families.

The takeaway:

Participants will learn about the challenges that families in developing countries face in earning an income to feed their families, as well as how microloans can make a difference. Again they will see how circumstances outside a person's control, like where they are born, can affect whether or not they experience poverty.



Print ahead of time:

The Marketplace Station Card 

The Marketplace Station Poster 

Stations (cont.)

Shelter: Overview for leaders

This station should be set up with a pile of rocks and sticks, but not enough for everyone in the group. Participants will be told to grab an item they would use to build a home with—and only those who grab first will have what they need to build a shelter.

The takeaway:

Participants will learn about the challenges the poor face in providing safe shelter for their families.



Print ahead of time:

The Shelter Station Card 

The Shelter Station Poster 

Conclusion

Call everyone together for a debrief and pose the provided questions (see page 48), creating a dialogue about Anika from Bangladesh and the consequences of the various choices that she and her family had to make.

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Anika's Story

Read the following information aloud to your whole group to set the stage for their experience.

Anika is a representative for millions of children who share a common experience: being born into a world of crippling poverty. In your experience today, you will help shape Anika's future through each of your choices.

We'll start with the beginning of Anika's story—and from there it's up to you. At each step, you and your group will face another event that will force you to make a decision. Each of these choices will determine another turn in Anika's life.

Along the way, you'll encounter the sights of Anika's world—things like a bustling local marketplace, a rural health clinic, a bare-bones dinner table, a dilapidated schoolroom, and an overcrowded homeless shelter in the city. As you make your way from place to place, you'll experience the realities of poverty and its effects on every aspect of life.

In the end:

Your goal is to make decisions that bring hope to Anika and give her a brighter future where she can fulfill her God-given potential. Choose wisely. Listen to input from everyone in your group, and make decisions as a team.

We will gather together as a whole group at the end of this experience to share the various outcomes of Anika's life. Be prepared to talk about how you made the choices you did, and why.

Meet Anika

Anika is a bright-eyed girl—always ready to laugh, even when times are hard. Her father, Samir, describes her as the light in their little family. At 13, Anika is the oldest of three daughters born to Samir and his wife Priya.

Anika and her family live in the impoverished village of Balahar in the southeast Asian country of Bangladesh. While Samir does his best to farm his two-acre plot of land, it's far too small to survive on, so he also sharecrops—farming local fields for a landowner who lives far away. By working long, hard days, Samir can keep his family fed, but just barely. He brings home the equivalent of less than two U.S. dollars a day.

Priya works odd jobs when they're available. It's hard because she must take 2-year-old Reshmi, Anika's youngest sister, with her. Priya's greatest desire is to send her daughters to school. But school fees and the cost of a uniform for Anika nearly deplete the family's meager income.

Tonight, Anika can tell her mother is tired. Reshmi sleeps in Priya's lap, looking tiny and safe. Anika smiles at her other sister, 5-year-old Hena, who is sweeping the dirt-covered floor of their bamboo hut. As she prepares dinner to give her mother a rest, Anika hums softly and weaves a familiar story in her head.

Anika's Story (cont.)

In her dreams, Anika is a teacher. She has her own classroom full of brand-new supplies, books, and eager students. She takes delight in answering the children's questions and watching them learn ... but as the pot begins to boil, Anika returns to the present. It's dinnertime, and she's hoping she can somehow stretch the meal to serve everyone. Tonight, she sees that won't be possible, and her smile fades.

That night a fierce storm hits. The rain and winds are so strong and loud that Reshmi and Hena cry all night. The frightened girls cling to their parents.

When morning dawns, the little hut is barely standing; the floors are covered in thick mud and sections of the roof and walls have collapsed. Anika's heart sinks when she looks outside: the crops that just yesterday had been nearly ready to harvest are submerged in floodwaters.

Samir looks old, Anika thinks, in a way he's never looked before. He stands motionless, one hand on his head, eyes full of tears as he stares out across his devastated land. He knows he will not farm again for a long time.

Introductory decision

Anika's family farm has been destroyed by a sudden flood. There is no way her father, Samir, will be able to make any kind of profit this year. Yet without an income, his family will not survive. They are already hungry. They can't go many more days without food.

Priya and Samir must make a difficult choice. **Do they stay in their village or make a risky move to the city?** They have nothing but their land and some livestock to sell. Which choice would you make?

Have your group make a decision and then read the outcome aloud.

Choice 1a

Anika and her family stay in their village.

Her family chooses to remain in their damaged hut and her parents try to find another source of income in a community where many others have also lost their farms.

Action!

Go to any open station. Follow the instructions for that activity, then go to **Scenario 1a** on page 14.

Choice 1b

Anika and her family move to a big city to look for work.

The family takes a risk and moves to the capital city of Dhaka so Samir can look for employment.

Action!

Go to any open station. Follow the instructions for that activity, then go to **Scenario 1b** on page 14.

Anika's Story (cont.)

Scenario 1a

Samir and Priya no longer have a source of income, yet their home must be repaired before they can live in it. They move temporarily into Priya's aunt's home, where Samir is given the chance to earn a small income helping on their larger farm. At this point, Anika is able to remain in school.

But after a few months, Samir has been unable to save any money and their home remains ruined. Anika's aunt has taken in other family members whose homes were also destroyed, and there is no longer room for Anika's family. Samir must immediately find the money for the home repairs.

Should Samir and Priya sell their livestock, or borrow cash from the local moneylender? Which choice would you make?

Choice 2a

Anika's family sells their livestock for money to repair their hut.

They trade their remaining livestock—some poultry and a goat—for the money to fix their home.

Action!

Go to any open station. Follow the instructions for that activity, then go to **Scenario 2a** on page 15.

Choice 2b

Anika's family takes a loan to repair their hut.

Samir borrows cash from the local moneylender to make repairs to their home.

Action!

Go to any open station. Follow the instructions for that activity, then go to **Scenario 2b** on page 16.

Scenario 1b

Samir and Priya move their family to Dhaka, the capital city of Bangladesh. After selling their land, along with their few chickens and goat, they have enough money to rent a small apartment. They find a school for Anika, although buying her uniform costs the rest of their money.

Samir looks desperately for work, with no luck. After the recent floods, the city is teeming with men like him who have abandoned their homes in search of income for their families. Finally, it's Priya who finds a job at a garment factory. Samir is still looking for work, so there is no one to care for the younger girls. Anika considers leaving school to watch her sisters—just for a while, until her father gets a job.

Should Anika stay in school, or leave school to care for her younger sisters? Which choice would you make?

Anika's Story (cont.)

Choice 2c

Anika stays in school.

This leaves the two younger girls unsupervised during the day.

Action!

Go to any open station. Follow the instructions for that activity, then go to **Scenario 2c** on page 17.

Choice 2d

Anika leaves school to care for her younger sisters.

This allows her mother to continue working while her father looks for a job.

Action!

Go to any open station. Follow the instructions for that activity, then go to **Scenario 2d** on page 18.

Scenario 2a

After completing the simple repairs themselves, Samir and Priya are thrilled to move their family back into their own home. But now, with no goat to provide milk and no poultry to produce eggs, the children are growing thin. Samir still works on his wife's sister's farm, but it's simply not enough to sustain them.

Then one day, little Reshmi becomes sick with a high fever. There is no money for a visit to the health clinic.

Should Anika drop out of school to help pay for her sister's medical bills, or remain in school and hope that her sister will get better without healthcare? Which choice would you make?

Choice 3a

Anika drops out of school and goes to work to help pay for her sister's medical bills.

Samir and Priya decide to pull Anika out of school temporarily to work for her uncle, a shrimp farmer, in the city of Chittagong near the Bay of Bengal. The income she earns will help pay for Reshmi's medical bills and help her family get back on its feet.

Action!

Go to a station you haven't visited yet that is not occupied by another group. Follow the instructions for that activity, then go to **Scenario 3a** on page 19.

Anika's Story (cont.)

Choice 3b

Anika stays in school, and the family skips the health clinic.

The family chooses to remain together and keep Anika in school, because they know how important an education is to her future. But with so many needs to fill, Priya searches even harder for regular work. They give Reshmi most of the little food they have in hopes that better nutrition will help her body heal.

Action!

Go to a station you haven't visited yet that is not occupied by another group. Follow the instructions for that activity, then go to **Scenario 3b** on page 20.

Scenario 2b

Samir and Priya immediately use the loan to buy the supplies they need to repair their home, and they move back in a matter of days. Anika is relieved that her parents didn't sell their animals. She knows the nutritious milk and eggs are keeping her sisters healthy.

But soon there is trouble. The man who loaned them the money comes to the house one night and calls Samir outside. Anika hears yelling. When her father returns, his mouth is bleeding, but he won't say what happened. Later, Anika overhears him whispering to Priya that he must repay the loan much sooner than expected, and with more interest. Anika is afraid. She knows her father won't be able to meet the new deadline and she worries for his safety.

**Should Anika drop out of school to help her family pay back the loan, or go to live with her distant relative to help her family save money?
Which choice would you make?**

Choice 3c

Anika drops out of school to help her family pay back the loan.

Samir and Priya pull Anika out of school temporarily to work for her uncle, a shrimp farmer, in the city of Chittagong near the Bay of Bengal. The income she earns will help repay the loan and enable her family to get back on its feet. She expects to be home and back in school within a few months.

Action!

Go to a station you haven't visited yet that is not occupied by another group. Follow the instructions for that activity, then go to **Scenario 3c** on page 20.

Anika's Story (cont.)

Choice 3d

Anika goes to live with her father's cousin to help her family save money.

Samir's cousin in Dhaka agrees to take Anika in for a year and send her to school. With one less mouth to feed, Anika's father may be able to pay back the loan on time. Anika doesn't know this distant cousin, but she tells her parents she is willing to go.

Action!

Go to a station you haven't visited yet that is not occupied by another group. Follow the instructions for that activity, then go to **Scenario 3d** on page 21.

Scenario 2c

One afternoon, Anika is called out of class by her headmistress and receives devastating news. A fire in their apartment building has left her sister Hena badly burned and in the hospital. Anika is overwhelmed with guilt that she did not stay home to care for her sisters. She knew that leaving them unsupervised was risky.

In the weeks that follow, Anika's mother refuses to leave the hospital where Hena is struggling to recover, and ends up losing her job as a result. The family's resources are quickly being drained, since Samir has still not found a job. Anika learns from a friend at school that many girls lie about their age to get a job at the garment factories. If she could earn an income, she could help her family survive. But dropping out of school is a big step.

Should Anika stay in school and hope her mother can return to work soon, or leave school to help her family earn an income? Which choice would you make?

Choice 3e

Anika stays in school and hopes her mother can return to work soon.

Surely her father will find work before too much longer. Anika can't bear the thought of sacrificing her education.

Action!

Go to a station you haven't visited yet that is not occupied by another group. Follow the instructions for that activity, then go to **Scenario 3e** on page 22.

Anika's Story (cont.)

Choice 3f

Anika leaves school to help her family earn an income.

While it's a heart-wrenching choice, she knows her family is barely able to survive. She tells herself that she'll work for a little while and maybe go back to school once her parents both find jobs.

Action!

Go to a station you haven't visited yet that is not occupied by another group. Follow the instructions for that activity, then go to **Scenario 3f** on page 23.

Scenario 2d

Anika stays home with her two sisters while her parents go to work. Her father finally finds a job salvaging scrap metal from abandoned ships. But the job is dangerous and exhausting. One day, Anika's family receives terrible news. Samir has been killed in an accident at the shipyard.

Priya is devastated. She can't imagine life without her husband. Overwhelmed, she stops going to her job in the garment factory. The money and food are gone in days. Anika knows something must be done, but her mother isn't in any condition to make decisions.

Should Anika look for work in the city to support her mother and two sisters, or talk her family into moving back to their village? Which choice would you make?

Choice 3g

Anika looks for work in the city to support her mother and two sisters.

She has to believe that her mother will recover and be able to support them, but in the meantime, Anika knows she must find a source of income to make sure they survive.

Action!

Go to a station you haven't visited yet that is not occupied by another group. Follow the instructions for that activity, then go to **Scenario 3g** on page 24.

Choice 3h

Anika talks her family into moving back to their village.

At least there they'll be back among friends and relatives. Maybe one of them will help her family until they can get on their feet again.

Action!

Go to a station you haven't visited yet that is not occupied by another group. Follow the instructions for that activity, then go to **Scenario 3h** on page 25.

Anika's Story (cont.)

Scenario 3a

Anika leaves for the city of Chittagong, roughly 360 miles from home. She is anxious about the demanding job and being away from her family for the first time, but she is determined to earn money to help them.

Anika's uncle is a cold, businesslike man, but she's grateful that at least he leaves her alone. To him she is just one of a dozen other child laborers housed in a long brick building with rows of bunk beds.

Another girl teaches Anika to drag a stick along the river bank and collect baby shrimp in a pail. The task is tedious and tiring, and her workdays begin at dawn and continue till dusk. But she doesn't complain.

After the first month, Anika is pleased with the amount of money she's been able to send to her family. But that same day, she hears terrible news—the girl who befriended her has fallen into the river and disappeared under the water. When no one is looking, Anika's uncle corners Anika and warns her not to tell anyone about the accident. Anika is terrified and wonders whether she's safe.

Should Anika stay with her uncle, or run away? Which choice would you make?

Choice 4a

Anika decides to stay with her uncle for a few more months.

She hopes that if she keeps quiet, her uncle will leave her alone. The money she sent home saved Reshmi's life. A little more would help her family save for another emergency.

Action!

Go to a station you haven't visited yet that is not occupied by another group. Follow the instructions for that activity, then go to **Scenario 4a** on page 25.

Choice 4b

Anika decides to run.

Anika is afraid of her uncle since he showed no concern about her friend's death. She worries that if she's caught he might beat her. But she knows her family still needs money. She escapes early the next day and sets off on her own to find a job in the city.

Action!

Go to a station you haven't visited yet that is not occupied by another group. Follow the instructions for that activity, then go to **Scenario 4b** on page 27.

Anika's Story (cont.)

Scenario 3b

Priya's efforts to find work in the village are fruitless. Meanwhile, Reshmi has stopped eating. A week later, the frail little girl passes away during the night. Priya looks like a ghost, and Samir no longer smiles. But despite their grief, they must find a way to make an income to feed their surviving children. It seems the only option is to move to the city to look for work. But Anika's mother has a distant relative in another village that can arrange a marriage for Anika, even though she is only 13. With only one child at home, there's a chance the family could survive in their home village.

Should the family move to the city, or should Anika try to lighten the burden on her parents by marrying the stranger? Which choice would you make?

Choice 4c

Anika's family sells their land and moves to Dhaka.

Life can't get much worse in the village, and home reminds Priya too much of her lost little girl. The big city presents risks, but Samir hopes it also offers more employment opportunities.

Action!

Go to a station you haven't visited yet that is not occupied by another group. Follow the instructions for that activity, then go to **Scenario 4c** on page 28.

Choice 4d

Anika agrees to marry the older stranger.

Priya contacts her relatives, and the marriage is arranged. While Anika is horrified, she is also desperate to help her family. She becomes a child bride.

Action!

Go to a station you haven't visited yet that is not occupied by another group. Follow the instructions for that activity, then go to **Scenario 4d** on page 30.

Scenario 3c

Anika leaves for the city of Chittagong, roughly 360 miles from home. She is anxious about the demanding job and being away from her family for the first time, but she is determined to earn money to help them.

Anika's uncle is a cold, businesslike man, but she's grateful that at least he leaves her alone. To him she is just one of a dozen other child laborers housed in a long brick building with rows of bunk beds.

Another girl teaches Anika to drag a stick along the river bank and collect baby shrimp in a pail. The task is tedious and tiring, and her workdays begin at dawn and continue till dusk. But she doesn't complain.

Anika's Story (cont.)

After the first month, Anika is pleased with the amount of money she's been able to send to her family. But that same day, she hears terrible news—the girl who befriended her has fallen into the river and disappeared under the water. When no one is looking, Anika's uncle corners Anika and warns her not to tell anyone about the accident. Anika is terrified and wonders whether she's safe.

Should Anika stay with her uncle, or run away? Which choice would you make?

Choice 4e

Anika stays with her uncle until she can help her father repay the loan.

She promises herself she will only remain a little while longer. She stays quiet about her friend's death after hearing about other children who have been beaten for little or no reason.

Action!

Go to a station you haven't visited yet that is not occupied by another group. Follow the instructions for that activity, then go to **Scenario 4e** on page 31.

Choice 4f

Anika decides to run.

Anika is afraid of her uncle since he showed no concern about her friend's death. She worries that if she's caught he might beat her. But she knows her family still needs money. She escapes early the next day and sets off on her own to find a job in the city.

Action!

Go to a station you haven't visited yet that is not occupied by another group. Follow the instructions for that activity, then go to **Scenario 4f** on page 33.

Scenario 3d

Hena sobs as Anika leaves, and Anika can barely hold back her tears. She has never been away from her family before. But her relative is friendly and promises she will take good care of Anika.

However, when they reach Dhaka, Anika is handed over to a man who drives her to a large home in the center of the city. Anika is terrified when she realizes that she's been sold as a servant.

Anika is locked in the house and forced to work long hours with no wages. She is beaten if she works too slowly. The master of the house tells her that if she can prove herself, she will receive wages after six months. But after being beaten at least once a week, her hope begins to fade.

One day, Anika finds the back door unlocked. Does she try to escape? How will she survive if she does?

Should Anika run away or stay? Which choice would you make?

Anika's Story (cont.)

Choice 4g

Anika decides to run away.

She's not sure how to survive on her own, but she is miserable where she is and desperate to earn money to help her family.

Action!

Go to a station you haven't visited yet that is not occupied by another group. Follow the instructions for that activity, then go to **Scenario 4g** on page 34.

Choice 4h

Anika decides to stay.

If she returns to her parents, they will be no better off—this way they have one less mouth to feed. And she has no idea how to find a job on her own. While things are bad where she is, she hopes that eventually she'll earn wages. In the meantime, at least she has food and shelter.

Action!

Go to a station you haven't visited yet that is not occupied by another group. Follow the instructions for that activity, then go to **Scenario 4h** on page 35.

Scenario 3e

Anika chooses to stay in school and hope for the best. Her hopes are rewarded: Hena finally heals and comes home, and her medical bills are lower than expected thanks to grants the hospital received from the governments of rich countries.

About the same time, Samir finds a job with good wages, salvaging scrap metal from abandoned ships. It seems things are looking up. But the job is dangerous. One afternoon, Samir's supervisor knocks on the door of their apartment with awful news: Anika's beloved father has been killed in an accident at the shipyard.

Priya is grief-stricken, but she knows there is no way they can survive without Samir. She disappears one day, and when she returns, she tells the girls that she has married the foreman at the garment factory. They move into his home the next day.

Anika's stepfather is a brute and yells at Priya. Anika tries to defend her mother, but the man hits Anika so hard that she can't hear well afterward. She tries to avoid him after that, since it's clear he doesn't like her.

The abuse continues as the days go on, and Anika wonders if she should try to find a job and another place to live. Maybe if she wasn't there, her stepfather would be kinder to Priya.

**Should Anika stay in her stepfather's home or go out on her own?
Which choice would you make?**

Anika's Story (cont.)

Choice 4i

Anika chooses to remain in her stepfather's home.

While she knows this may not be the safest choice, at least she can still watch over her sisters and stay in school.

Action!

Go to a station you haven't visited yet that is not occupied by another group. Follow the instructions for that activity, then go to **Scenario 4i** on page 37.

Choice 4j

Anika leaves to escape her stepfather's abuse.

While she doesn't know where she'll go, she decides to try to find her own income. Maybe eventually she and her mother can pool their incomes, and the family can be together again—without her abusive stepfather.

Action!

Go to a station you haven't visited yet that is not occupied by another group. Follow the instructions for that activity, then go to **Scenario 4j** on page 38.

Scenario 3f

Anika looks for work but is unsuccessful. Her little sister finally comes home from the hospital, just as their money has run out. Thankfully, Samir finally finds a job in a shipyard.

Knowing they still have bills to pay, Anika vows to help her family. One day, she wakes up early and follows her father to the shipyard. When he sees her, he tells her to go home. "It's not safe," he explains. But Anika insists on staying. Samir's boss agrees to pay her a meager wage.

The environment is terribly dangerous. Anika works near Samir, taking scrap metal from old cargo ships and tankers. At times she even uses a blowtorch to cut steel walls into small plates. With no eye protection, she's at risk of a serious eye injury. Samir constantly warns her to watch for falling pieces of metal.

Anika doesn't mind—it feels good to be helping. But her father worries. When Priya suggests that perhaps Anika should get married, Samir says he'd be relieved to see her out of danger. But they leave the decision to Anika.

Should Anika continue working in the shipyard, or marry an older stranger? Which choice would you make?

Anika's Story (cont.)

Choice 4k

Anika continues working in the shipyard.

She knows it's dangerous, but she would rather face the physical risks of the shipyard than get married so young to someone she doesn't know.

Action!

Go to a station you haven't visited yet that is not occupied by another group. Follow the instructions for that activity, then go to **Scenario 4k** on page 39.

Choice 4l

Anika agrees to marry an older stranger.

Priya contacts a distant relative who arranges the marriage. While Anika is uncomfortable with the thought of being such a young wife, she wants to please her father—and not be a burden to her family. She becomes a child bride at the age of 13.

Action!

Go to a station you haven't visited yet that is not occupied by another group. Follow the instructions for that activity, then go to **Scenario 4l** on page 41.

Scenario 3g

After her father's death, Anika looks for work in the city to help support her family. She finally finds work as a domestic servant in a large house.

Anika quickly realizes that the master does not pay his employees regularly. For weeks she goes without wages and must steal food for her sisters and mother. Worse, she sees other girls being beaten for working too slowly. Anika knows she risks being beaten too, but her family needs the food.

Should Anika stay or leave? Which choice would you make?

Choice 4m

Anika decides to leave.

The unreliable wages are not worth the physical risk from her abusive master.

Action!

Go to a station you haven't visited yet that is not occupied by another group. Follow the instructions for that activity, then go to **Scenario 4m** on page 43.

Anika's Story (cont.)

Choice 4n

Anika decides to stay until she can save more money.

While this may not be the safest choice, Anika doesn't know where else to go—and she is determined to help her family.

Action!

Go to a station you haven't visited yet that is not occupied by another group. Follow the instructions for that activity, then go to **Scenario 4n** on page 44.

Scenario 3h

After her father dies, Anika takes full responsibility for her family since her mother is paralyzed by grief. She decides to move them back to their village.

The journey takes a few days. Her tired, hungry sisters cry while their mother remains silent, lost in depression. When they arrive home, Anika's aunt takes them in again and tells Anika about a job that would require her to move away.

**Should Anika stay and hope for her mother's recovery, or take the job?
Which choice would you make?**

Choice 4o

Anika chooses to stay.

She puts all her faith in the hope that her mother will recover soon.

Action!

Go to a station you haven't visited yet that is not occupied by another group. Follow the instructions for that activity, then go to **Scenario 4o** on page 45.

Choice 4p

Anika takes the job.

While this will mean she has to move away, it seems like the only way to help her family get back on their feet.

Action!

Go to a station you haven't visited yet that is not occupied by another group. Follow the instructions for that activity, then go to **Scenario 4p** on page 46.

Scenario 4a

Anika stays with her uncle. No one else mentions the girl who died, and Anika finally starts to feel safe. After three more months of shrimp fishing, Anika asks to return home. To her relief, her uncle lets her go.

Anika's Story (cont.)

Scenario 4a (cont.)

Back in her village, Anika discovers that her father and mother now have jobs: Priya has started breeding poultry and selling eggs and chickens at the market, and Samir has found a new job working for another landowner.

Priya has the potential to expand her business, but can't do it on her own. Anika knows that if she helped, they could make enough money to put Hena, and eventually Reshmi, into school.

Should Anika return to school or sacrifice her own education to help her family? Which choice would you make?

Choice 5a

Anika decides to stay in school.

Her family may be struggling now, but an education is Anika's best way to build a better future, even if it won't pay off for many years.

Action!

Go to a station you haven't visited yet that is not occupied by another group. Follow the instructions for that activity.

End Result 5a

Grateful to be back in school, Anika dedicates herself to her schoolwork. Her diligence pays off. She finishes school at the top of her class and gets a scholarship to continue her studies and become a teacher. As an added blessing, her parents are both doing well in their jobs, and Anika's sisters are also able to go to school. Thankfully, the family is still together—and they have broken the cycle of poverty. ■

Choice 5b

Anika decides to leave school and work alongside her mother.

While she may be sacrificing her own education, Anika believes this is the best way to help her mother and ensure her sisters have the chance to stay in school and create a better future.

Action!

Go to a station you haven't visited yet that is not occupied by another group. Follow the instructions for that activity.

End Result 5b

Priya's business continues to grow, and the family's improved income means Anika could go back to school. But three years have passed since she left school, and she lacks the confidence to try to catch up with her remaining classmates, most of whom are boys.

Anika's Story (cont.)

End Result 5b (cont.)

Instead of returning to school, Anika sells poultry at the market. She may never become a teacher, but at least she has something to eat every night. She tries to forget the hopes and dreams she once had. She consoles herself with the knowledge that both of her sisters will get an education. When her sisters start school, she urges them to study hard and never give up their own dreams. ■

Scenario 4b

After running away from her uncle, Anika wants to get as far from Chittagong as possible. She hears of job opportunities in Dhaka and has just enough money to buy a bus ticket to the city.

Dhaka is much bigger than she imagined, but Anika is determined to find work. At the bus station, people offer her jobs ranging from housecleaning to working in a shipyard. Anika chooses to talk to the only woman in the crowd—the one offering a job as a housecleaner.

Should Anika trust the woman and take the job, or venture into the city and take a chance on finding something better? Which choice would you make?

Choice 5c

Anika decides to take the housecleaning job.

She may not know this woman, but she can't afford to turn down what may be her only chance to earn an income.

Action!

Go to a station you haven't visited yet that is not occupied by another group. Follow the instructions for that activity.

End Result 5c

The woman drives Anika to a large, gated home in the center of the city. Money is exchanged, and before she knows it, Anika has been sold as a domestic servant. The doors are kept locked so that she can't leave, and with no wages, the chances are small that she will escape or see her family again. As the days pass, Anika tries to forget her happy childhood and her former dreams. Instead, she focuses on being thankful for daily meals and a place to sleep. ■

Anika's Story (cont.)

Choice 5d

Anika decides to venture into the city on her own.

She doesn't quite trust this stranger, and doesn't want to take the first thing that comes her way. She wants to see what other opportunities are available.

Action!

Go to a station you haven't visited yet that is not occupied by another group. Follow the instructions for that activity.

End Result 5d

Anika takes a bus downtown and quickly realizes she is out of her element in this large, frightening city. She asks a girl her own age, who is also alone, if she knows where to find work. Instead the girl gives her directions to a shelter.

When Anika finds the shelter, she is told she can sleep there until she finds a job. The only real option is going to the dump to collect and sort garbage. This is not what Anika hoped for. But she knows she is now homeless and must fend for herself. She tries not to think about her former hopes of becoming a teacher. As the weeks and months pass, she dreams about her family and hopes they are doing well. But with no way to contact them and not enough money to get home, she knows she may never see them again. ■

Scenario 4c

Samir and Priya move their family to the capital city of Dhaka. After selling their land, along with their few chickens and goat, they have enough money to rent a small apartment. They find a school for Anika, although buying her uniform costs the rest of their money.

Samir looks desperately for work with no luck. After the recent floods, the city is teeming with men like him who have abandoned their homes in search of income for their families. Finally, it's Priya who finds a job at a garment factory. Samir is still looking for work, so there is no one to care for Hena. Anika considers leaving school to watch her little sister—just for a while, until her father gets a job.

Should Anika leave school to care for Hena, or return to school at her parents' urging? Which choice would you make?

Anika's Story (cont.)

Choice 5e

Anika leaves school to care for Hena.

While she hates to miss out on school, as the oldest child she feels it's her duty to help her parents get settled.

Action!

Go to a station you haven't visited yet that is not occupied by another group. Follow the instructions for that activity.

End Result 5e

Anika stays home with Hena while her parents look for employment. Her father finally finds a job salvaging scrap metal from abandoned ships. But the work is dangerous. One day, Samir's supervisor knocks on their apartment door with terrible news: Anika's beloved father has been killed in a shipyard accident.

Priya is devastated. She can't imagine life without her husband. Completely overwhelmed, she stops going to her job in the garment factory. The money and food are gone in days.

At age 14, Anika has already experienced two deaths in her family. Her mother is paralyzed with grief, so Anika knows their future depends on her. Someone must care for Hena and provide food for them. Anika lies about her age and secures a job at a garment factory. Her dream of being a teacher and her hope of a future without poverty are gone. In their place is sheer determination to survive. ■

Choice 5f

Anika stays in school at her parents' urging.

Action!

Go to a station you haven't visited yet that is not occupied by another group. Follow the instructions for that activity.

End Result 5f

Samir eventually secures a job at a fishery. Although they must make many more sacrifices, his and Priya's wages allow them to keep Anika in school.

Anika, grateful for the blessing of an education, works hard in her studies. Her diligence pays off and she graduates at the top of her class, eventually fulfilling her childhood dream by becoming a teacher. Her wages help pay for her sisters' education. Hena and Reshmi also finish school and get good jobs, one in a government office and one as an accountant. The girls are the first in their family to be educated. Their parents' sacrifices and their own hard work have enabled them to break free from poverty. ■

Anika's Story (cont.)

Scenario 4d

Many girls from Anika's village are married by her age, but she had always imagined a different future for herself. Her new husband is almost as old as her father, but unlike Samir, he has a harsh manner—and her new home is far from her family. She knows her childhood is over and that she now has heavy responsibilities. She clings to the hope that her sacrifice will enable her sisters to go to school and have a better future.

Anika has been married for only four months when she discovers she is pregnant. Her husband expects her to deliver a son, but she goes into premature labor and her baby girl does not survive.

Anika's husband won't speak to her and threatens her when she cries about the baby, so she learns to keep quiet. Three months later, she is pregnant again. Her husband changes his attitude and even pays for her to see a doctor. Anika is terrified at the prospect of what will happen if she loses another baby ... or has another girl. If she leaves her husband, she won't have healthcare for herself or her child, and she risks angering her husband.

Should Anika run away, or stay with her husband? Which choice would you make?

Choice 5g

Anika decides to run away.

Anika goes to the market and asks for help from one of the women who has been friendly to her. She knows she is risking her own life and that of her baby by leaving her husband, but she doesn't feel safe at home.

Action!

Go to a station you haven't visited yet that is not occupied by another group. Follow the instructions for that activity.

End Result 5g

The woman introduces Anika to a World Vision worker who helps her move to a shelter. The World Vision staff help her get prenatal care and she eventually gives birth to a healthy baby girl.

With World Vision's assistance, Anika enrolls in job training that will enable her to become a seamstress and earn a living. While it isn't the life she dreamed about as a child, it's safe, and she is thankful. After the challenges she's endured, she is grateful to have hope for her future and a good income to support her daughter. ■

Anika's Story (cont.)

Choice 5h

Anika stays with her husband.

She believes her best chance for a successful delivery and a healthy child is to stay where she is. Being in the care of a doctor, she tells herself, outweighs the risk of staying with her husband.

Action!

Go to a station you haven't visited yet that is not occupied by another group. Follow the instructions for that activity.

End Result 5h

Anika gives birth to another girl. This time, the baby survives, but Anika's husband won't acknowledge their daughter. Anika's heart breaks when she holds her baby girl, whom she names Mita.

Another year passes and Anika finally gives birth to a boy—giving her husband the son he so greatly desires. But while he is pleased with the boy's arrival, Anika does not fare so well. Complications from the delivery are too much for the young mother. The sweet girl who once dreamed of being a teacher does not survive the birth of her son. When she dies, she is only 15. ■

Scenario 4e

Anika stays with her uncle. No one else mentions the girl who died, and Anika finally starts to feel safe. After three more months of catching baby shrimp, Anika asks to return home. To her relief, her uncle lets her go.

Back in her village, Anika discovers that her father and mother now have jobs: Priya has started breeding poultry and selling eggs and chickens at the market, and Samir has found a new job working for another landowner.

Priya has the potential to expand her business, but can't do it on her own. Anika knows that if she helped, they could make enough money to put Hena, and eventually Reshmi, into school.

Should Anika return to school or sacrifice her own education to help her family? Which choice would you make?

Anika's Story (cont.)

Choice 5i

Anika returns to school.

Her family may be struggling now, but an education is her best hope to build a better future, even if it won't pay off for many years.

Action!

Go to a station you haven't visited yet that is not occupied by another group. Follow the instructions for that activity.

End Result 5i

Grateful to be back in school, Anika dedicates herself to her schoolwork. Her diligence pays off. She finishes school at the top of her class and gets a scholarship to continue her studies and become a teacher. As an added blessing, her parents are both doing well in their jobs, and Anika's sisters are also able to go to school. Thankfully, the family is still together—and they have broken the cycle of poverty. ■

Choice 5j

Anika decides to sacrifice her education to work alongside her mother.

She believes this is the best way to help her mother and ensure her sisters have the chance to stay in school and create a better future.

Action!

Go to a station you haven't visited yet that is not occupied by another group. Follow the instructions for that activity.

End Result 5j

Priya's business continues to grow, and the family's improved income means Anika could go back to school. But three years have passed since she left school, and she lacks the confidence to try to catch up with her remaining classmates, most of whom are boys.

Instead of returning to school, Anika sells poultry at the market. She may never become a teacher, but at least she has something to eat every night. She tries to forget the hopes and dreams she once had. She consoles herself with the knowledge that both of her sisters will get an education. She urges them to study hard and never give up their own dreams. ■

Anika's Story (cont.)

Scenario 4f

After running away from her uncle, Anika wants to get as far from Chittagong as possible. She hears of job opportunities in Dhaka and has just enough money to buy a bus ticket to the city.

Dhaka is much bigger than she imagined, but Anika is determined to find work. At the bus station, people offer her jobs ranging from housecleaning to working in a shipyard. Anika chooses to talk to the only woman in the crowd—the one offering a job as a housecleaner.

Should Anika trust the woman and take the job, or venture into the city and take a chance on finding something better? Which choice would you make?

Choice 5k

Anika decides to take the housecleaning job.

She may not know this woman, but she can't afford to turn down what may be her only chance to earn an income.

Action!

Go to a station you haven't visited yet that is not occupied by another group. Follow the instructions for that activity.

End Result 5k

The woman drives Anika to a large, gated home in the center of the city. Money is exchanged, and before she knows it, Anika has been sold as a domestic servant. The doors are kept locked so that she can't leave, and with no wages, the chances are small that she will escape or see her family again. As the days pass, Anika tries to forget her happy childhood and her former dreams. Instead, she focuses on being thankful for daily meals and a place to sleep. ■

Choice 5l

Anika decides to venture into the city on her own.

She doesn't quite trust this stranger, and doesn't want to take the first thing that comes her way. She wants to see what other opportunities are available.

Action!

Go to a station you haven't visited yet that is not occupied by another group. Follow the instructions for that activity.

Anika's Story (cont.)

End Result 5l

Anika takes a bus downtown and quickly realizes she is out of her element in this large, frightening city. She asks a girl her own age, who is also alone, if she knows where to find work. Instead the girl gives her directions to a shelter.

When Anika finds the shelter, she is told she can sleep there until she finds a job. The only real option is going to the dump to collect and sort garbage. This is not what Anika hoped for. But she knows she is now homeless and must fend for herself. She tries not to think about her former hopes of becoming a teacher. As the weeks and months pass, she dreams about her family and hopes they are doing well. But with no way to contact them and not enough money to get home, she knows she may never see them again. ■

Scenario 4g

Anika takes advantage of her master's mistake and slips out the door. She runs as fast and as far as she can. When she sees a girl her own age who is also alone, Anika hesitantly asks if she knows where to find work. Instead the girl gives her directions to a shelter.

When Anika finds the shelter, she is told she can sleep there until she finds a job. The only real option is going to the dump to collect and sort garbage. This is not what Anika hoped for. But she knows she is now homeless and must fend for herself.

Should Anika try to return home, where she may be a burden to her family again, or try to fend for herself on the streets of a large and unfamiliar city? Which choice would you make?

Choice 5m

Anika decides to try to make her way home.

She misses her family so badly that she can't bear the thought of being without them any longer. Even though she'll be another mouth to feed, she hopes they will welcome her back. She knows the trip home will be dangerous on her own, but she's willing to take the risk.

Action!

Go to a station you haven't visited yet that is not occupied by another group. Follow the instructions for that activity.

End Result 5m

It's a long journey for Anika. She survives by sleeping in doorways and barns and begging for food. On the way, she worries about how she'll be received. But she finds a happy surprise.

Her father and sisters welcome Anika back with joy-filled hugs and kisses. Samir explains his devastation upon realizing that he and Priya had been tricked into

Anika's Story (cont.)

entrusting Anika to their relative's care. With no way to contact Anika, he had given her up for lost.

Tragically, Priya has died of a disease contracted from the unsafe water in their village. Anika mourns that she didn't have the chance to say goodbye to her beloved mother.

Despite his grief at his wife's death, Samir is in the process of restoring his fields. Little by little, he is saving the money he's earning on another landowner's farm, and is getting ready to expand his own farm by purchasing additional land.

Anika misses her mother but is relieved and thankful to be home, and returns to school with enthusiasm. Slowly but surely, her dreams begin taking shape once again. With the worst behind her, she cherishes her family and her hopes for the future. ■

Choice 5n

Anika decides to try to fend for herself in the city.

She isn't sure her parents would be able to support her, even if she was able to make her way home.

Action!

Go to a station you haven't visited yet that is not occupied by another group. Follow the instructions for that activity.

End Result 5n

Anika finds a job chipping bricks for 40 cents a day. A woman she works with offers her a place to sleep, so Anika feels safe at night. She vows to save enough to someday find a better job, maybe working as a seamstress or in a factory. For now, she is at least getting paid. At only 14, she has abandoned her dream of becoming a teacher. But she still has determination to survive, no matter what it takes. ■

Scenario 4h

One day Anika's master beats her so badly that she passes out. When she awakes she realizes she's been dumped in an alley and left to die. She cries out for help, hoping someone will hear her.

When Anika awakes again she realizes that a kind woman has taken her in and cleaned her wounds. She is bruised and sore, but will recover. But she can't stay with her good Samaritan, who has her own family to care for.

Should Anika wander the streets of this big city alone, or try to return home to her village? Which choice would you make?

Anika's Story (cont.)

Choice 5o

Anika decides to try to make her own way in the city.

She isn't sure her parents would be able to support her, even if she was able to make her way home.

Action!

Go to a station you haven't visited yet that is not occupied by another group. Follow the instructions for that activity.

End Result 5o

Anika isn't sure where to go when she leaves the home of her caregiver. But soon she sees a girl her own age who is also alone. Anika hesitantly asks if she knows where to find work, but instead the girl gives her directions to a shelter.

When Anika finds the shelter, she is told she can sleep there at night but she must try to find her own work. The only real option is going to the dump to collect and sort garbage. This is not what Anika hoped for. But she accepts the reality that she is now homeless and must fend for herself. ■

Choice 5p

Anika decides to try to make her way home.

She misses her family so badly that she can't bear the thought of being without them any longer. Even though she'll be another mouth to feed, she hopes they will welcome her back. She knows the trip home will be dangerous on her own, but she's willing to take the risk.

Action!

Go to a station you haven't visited yet that is not occupied by another group. Follow the instructions for that activity.

End Result 5p

It's a long journey for Anika. She survives by sleeping in doorways and barns and begging for food. On the way, she worries about how she'll be received. But she finds a happy surprise.

Her father and sisters welcome Anika back with joy-filled hugs and kisses. Samir explains his devastation upon realizing that he and Priya had been tricked into entrusting Anika to their relative's care. With no way to contact Anika, he had given her up for lost.

Tragically, Priya has died of a disease contracted from the unsafe water in their village. Anika mourns that she didn't have the chance to say goodbye to her beloved mother.

Anika's Story (cont.)

Despite his grief at his wife's death, Samir is in the process of restoring his fields. Little by little, he is saving the money he's earning on another landowner's farm, and is getting ready to expand his own farm by purchasing additional land.

Anika misses her mother but is relieved and thankful to be home, and returns to school with enthusiasm. Slowly but surely, her dreams begin taking shape once again. With the worst behind her, she cherishes her family and her hopes for the future. ■

Scenario 4i

Anika remains at her stepfather's home. His temper worsens, and the beatings continue. Anika overhears him telling her mother that three girls in the family are too many. She wonders if her mother would be safer without her there.

One day in the market, Anika hears about an organization called World Vision that has helped other girls in need. Anika meets a woman from World Vision who listens to her story. She helps Anika find a shelter where she can stay, and takes her to a World Vision Child-Friendly Space where she can attend classes during the day. Her dream of becoming a teacher once again begins to take root.

Although Anika is happier, she misses and worries about her sisters and her mother.

Should Anika let her mother know she is safe, or stay away in hopes that her absence will make her mother's life easier? Which choice would you make?

Choice 5q

Anika goes to her stepfather's home to let her mother know she is safe.

It's worth risking her stepfather's anger—she doesn't want her mother to worry.

Action!

Go to a station you haven't visited yet that is not occupied by another group. Follow the instructions for that activity.

End Result 5q

When Anika arrives, her stepfather is not home. She tells her mother about the support she's received from the kind people at World Vision. Anika convinces her mom to take her sisters and return with her.

On the way there, Anika's heart is full. She no longer needs to worry about her family. World Vision helps Anika get back into a regular school, while Priya enrolls in job training to become a seamstress. Despite the loss her family has endured, Anika feels her hope is finally being restored. ■

Anika's Story (cont.)

Choice 5r

Anika stays away from her stepfather's home.

She is too afraid he may hurt her or her mother.

Action!

Go to a station you haven't visited yet that is not occupied by another group. Follow the instructions for that activity.

End Result 5r

Anika thinks of her mother and sisters every day, missing them desperately. One day, Reshmi and Hena arrive at the Child-Friendly Space with a neighbor. Anika is heartbroken to learn that their mother has died. She can hardly believe all that her family has suffered over the past year, but she's grateful her sisters are with her and no longer in danger from their stepfather. With help from the staff at the shelter, Anika continues her studies and begins to build a new life for her sisters and herself. ■

Scenario 4j

Anika steals away in the middle of the night to escape her stepfather's abuse. She finds a job chipping bricks for 40 cents a day. A woman she works with offers her a place to sleep, so at least she feels safe at night. She vows to save enough money so that her sisters can come live with her.

One day while Anika is chipping bricks, splinters fly into her eyes and leave her blinded. The kind woman who has given her shelter can no longer care for her in her helpless state, and advises that she go to a shelter.

Should Anika return to her stepfather's home to be with her family, or trust this woman she doesn't know and seek help from the shelter?
Which choice would you make?

Choice 5s

Anika returns to her stepfather's home.

Blinded and alone, she doesn't want to risk trusting another stranger. At least she will be with her family.

Action!

Go to a station you haven't visited yet that is not occupied by another group. Follow the instructions for that activity.

Anika's Story (cont.)

End Result 5s

Now unable to see, Anika cannot go to school, work, or even care for herself. She is completely dependent on her mother. Her stepfather is even more impatient with her and continues to yell at Priya. Anika is worried he will seriously injure her mother, but she knows she is incapable of helping in any way. She spends her days playing with her sisters, unable to dream for the future any longer. She is only 15. ■

Choice 5t

Anika chooses to trust the woman and seek help from the shelter.

While it may be a dead end, Anika can't bear the idea of returning to her abusive stepfather.

Action!

Go to a station you haven't visited yet that is not occupied by another group. Follow the instructions for that activity.

End Result 5t

Anika meets a woman from World Vision who listens to her story and takes her to a clinic where a doctor examines her injury. He says there is a chance her vision may return in one eye.

The kind woman then takes Anika to a shelter. For the first time in a very long while, Anika feels safe. In a few months, her right eye heals, giving her back limited vision. She is able to read, and her hopes of one day becoming a teacher are renewed.

One day, Priya brings Reshmi and Hena to the shelter. Priya has left her abusive husband for good. The staff at the shelter assure them that a new life together is possible. Despite the losses her family has faced over the past year, Anika finally believes their future will be better. She's determined to help make it so. ■

Scenario 4k

Several weeks after deciding to stay at the shipyard, Anika is struck by a metal rod and loses vision in one eye. Her parents insist that she quit her job, and Anika reluctantly agrees. She desperately wants to help her family, but the accident has left her shaken.

Her mother once again suggests that she get married. Anika still doesn't like the idea, but knows it will help her family.

Anika's Story (cont.)

Scenario 4k (cont.)

Anika meets her husband for the first time on their wedding day. He is almost as old as her father—but unlike Samir, he has a harsh manner. She knows her childhood is over and that she now has heavy responsibilities. She clings to the hope that her sacrifice will enable her sisters to go to school and have a better future.

Anika has been married for only four months when she discovers she is pregnant. Her husband expects her to deliver a son, but she goes into premature labor and her baby girl does not survive.

Anika's husband won't speak to her and threatens her when she cries about the baby, so she learns to keep quiet. Three months later, she is pregnant again. Her husband changes his attitude and even pays for her to see a doctor. Anika is terrified at the prospect of what will happen if she loses another baby ... or has another girl. If she leaves her husband, she won't have healthcare for herself or her child, and she risks angering her husband.

Should Anika run away, or stay with her husband? Which choice would you make?

Choice 5u

Anika decides to run away.

Anika goes to the market and asks for help from one of the women who has been friendly to her. She knows she is risking her own life and that of her baby by leaving her husband, but she doesn't feel safe at home.

Action!

Go to a station you haven't visited yet that is not occupied by another group. Follow the instructions for that activity.

End Result 5u

The woman introduces Anika to a World Vision worker who helps her move to a shelter. The World Vision staff help her get prenatal care and she eventually gives birth to a healthy baby girl.

With World Vision's assistance, Anika enrolls in job training that will enable her to become a seamstress and earn a living. While it isn't the life she dreamed about as a child, it's safe, and she is thankful. After the challenges she's endured, she is grateful to have hope for her future and a good income to support her daughter. ■

Anika's Story (cont.)

Choice 5v

Anika stays with her husband.

She believes her best chance for a successful delivery and a healthy child is to stay where she is. Being in the care of a doctor, she tells herself, outweighs the risk of staying with her husband.

Action!

Go to a station you haven't visited yet that is not occupied by another group. Follow the instructions for that activity.

End Result 5v

Anika gives birth to another girl. This time, the baby survives, but Anika's husband won't acknowledge their daughter. Anika's heart breaks when she holds her baby girl, whom she names Mita.

Another year passes and Anika finally gives birth to a boy—giving her husband the son he so greatly desires. But while he is pleased with the boy's arrival, Anika does not fare so well. Complications from the delivery are too much for the young mother. The sweet girl who once dreamed of being a teacher does not survive the birth of her son. When she dies, she is only 15. ■

Scenario 4l

Many girls from Anika's village are married by her age, but she had always imagined a different future for herself. Her new husband is almost as old as her father, but unlike Samir, he has a harsh manner—and her new home is far from her family. She knows her childhood is over and that she now has heavy responsibilities. She clings to the hope that her sacrifice will enable her sisters to go to school and have a better future.

Anika has been married for only four months when she discovers she is pregnant. Her husband expects her to deliver a son, but she goes into premature labor and her baby girl does not survive.

Anika's husband won't speak to her and threatens her when she cries about the baby, so she learns to keep quiet. Three months later, she is pregnant again. Her husband changes his attitude and even pays for her to see a doctor. Anika is terrified at the prospect of what will happen if she loses another baby ... or has another girl. If she leaves her husband, she won't have healthcare for herself or her child, and she risks angering her husband.

Should Anika stay with her husband, or run away? Which choice would you make?

Anika's Story (cont.)

Choice 5w

Anika stays with her husband.

She believes her best chance for a successful delivery and a healthy child is to stay where she is. Being in the care of a doctor, she tells herself, outweighs the risk of staying with her husband.

Action!

Go to a station you haven't visited yet that is not occupied by another group. Follow the instructions for that activity.

End Result 5w

Anika gives birth to another girl. This time, the baby survives, but Anika's husband won't acknowledge their daughter. Anika's heart breaks when she holds her baby girl, whom she names Mita.

Another year passes and Anika finally gives birth to a boy—giving her husband the son he so greatly desires. But while he is pleased with the boy's arrival, Anika does not fare so well. Complications from the delivery are too much for the young mother. The sweet girl who once dreamed of being a teacher does not survive the birth of her son. When she dies, she is only 15. ■

Choice 5x

Anika decides to run away.

Anika goes to the market and asks for help from one of the women who has been friendly to her. She knows she is risking her own life and that of her baby by leaving her husband, but she doesn't feel safe at home.

Action!

Go to a station you haven't visited yet that is not occupied by another group. Follow the instructions for that activity.

End Result 5x

The woman introduces Anika to a World Vision worker who helps her move to a shelter. The World Vision staff help her get prenatal care and she eventually gives birth to a healthy baby girl.

With World Vision's assistance, Anika enrolls in job training that will enable her to become a seamstress and earn a living. While it isn't the life she dreamed about as a child, it's safe, and she is thankful. After the challenges she's endured, she is grateful to have hope for her future and a good income to support her daughter. ■

Anika's Story (cont.)

Scenario 4m

Anika decides to leave her job as a domestic servant to try to find safer work. But what can she do? Anika consults her mother, who is still recovering from the grief of her husband's death. Priya offers to return to her job at the garment factory. But is it a mistake to return while she is still so emotionally fragile? Anika worries that her mother might get hurt on the job, or fall into a deeper depression.

**Should Anika allow her mother to return to work, or look for other help?
Which choice would you make?**

Choice 5y

Anika supports her mother's return to the garment factory.

While she may not be back to full health, it's the best chance they have for their family's survival.

Action!

Go to a station you haven't visited yet that is not occupied by another group. Follow the instructions for that activity.

End Result 5y

Priya's supervisors at the garment factory are kind. They not only allow her to return to work, but give her a less physically demanding job with slightly higher pay. The increased income means Anika no longer has to work—and an elderly neighbor offers to watch Hena and Reshmi during the day, allowing Anika to return to school.

Back in her classes, Anika finally finds renewed hope. While she misses her father and the life in her village, she looks forward to a brighter future. She eagerly pursues her dream of being a teacher. ■

Choice 5z

Anika decides to look for help.

While she isn't sure where to turn, she feels she has to try before letting her mother risk returning to work.

Action!

Go to a station you haven't visited yet that is not occupied by another group. Follow the instructions for that activity.

Anika's Story (cont.)

End Result 5z

Anika asks around and learns about free counseling services at a local shelter. At the shelter, she is introduced to a World Vision worker who offers them assistance in returning to their village so they can start over in a familiar and supportive community.

World Vision provides Anika and her family with materials to build a new home in their own village. Priya receives counseling support to help her recover and care for her family, and Anika is helped to return to school. Priya receives job training to become a seamstress—a role in which she immediately begins to thrive. In spite of the tragedies they've experienced, Priya and her daughters are grateful to be together and on the path to a better future. ■

Scenario 4n

Anika decides to stay until she can earn more money. One day, another servant dies as a result of a beating from the master. Anika witnesses the beating and runs for her own safety.

Anika returns to her family and is relieved to see that her mother's health has improved. But she still seems physically weakened. Priya offers to return to her job at the garment factory. But is it a mistake to return while she is still so emotionally fragile? Anika worries that her mother might get hurt on the job, or fall into a deeper depression.

**Should Anika allow her mother to return to work, or look for other help?
Which choice would you make?**

Choice 5aa

Anika support her mother's return to the garment factory.

While she may not be back to full health, it's the best chance they have for their family's survival.

Action!

Go to a station you haven't visited yet that is not occupied by another group. Follow the instructions for that activity.

End Result 5aa

Priya's supervisors at the garment factory are kind. They not only allow her to return to work, but give her a less physically demanding job with slightly higher pay. The increased income means Anika no longer has to work—and an elderly neighbor offers to watch Hena and Reshmi during the day, allowing Anika to return to school. Back in her classes, Anika finally finds renewed hope and eagerly pursues her dream of being a teacher. ■

Anika's Story (cont.)

Choice 5bb

Anika decides to look for help.

While she isn't sure where to turn, she feels she has to try before letting her mother risk returning to work.

Action!

Go to a station you haven't visited yet that is not occupied by another group. Follow the instructions for that activity.

End Result 5bb

Anika asks around and learns about free counseling services at a local shelter. At the shelter, she is introduced to a World Vision worker who offers them assistance in returning to their village so they can start over in a familiar and supportive community.

World Vision provides Anika and her family with materials to build a new home in their own village. Priya receives counseling support to help her recover and care for her family, and Anika is helped to return to school. Priya receives job training to become a seamstress—a role in which she immediately begins to thrive. In spite of the tragedies they've experienced, Priya and her daughters are grateful to be together and on the path to a better future. ■

Scenario 4o

Anika remains with her mother and sisters at her aunt's home, making herself as useful as possible. In the morning, she fetches water from the closest water source, then tends to the garden and prepares meals. Sadly, Priya's condition worsens. She no longer eats and her body wastes away. Anika watches helplessly.

One morning Anika awakens to learn her mother has died. Anika can hardly believe that both her parents are gone. Her aunt offers to raise the younger girls if Anika will take a job to support herself and provide help for them.

Should Anika leave her sisters and take the job, or find another place where the three of them can stay together? Which choice would you make?

Choice 5cc

Anika decides to take the job.

She vows to come back for her sisters once she has earned enough.

Action!

Go to a station you haven't visited yet that is not occupied by another group. Follow the instructions for that activity.

Anika's Story (cont.)

End Result 5cc

Anika's new job as a domestic laborer is a day's travel from her village. She works long hours, cooking, cleaning, and caring for young children. She works harder than she ever thought she could.

After several months, Anika adds up her wages. It will take years before she can save enough to return to her sisters. Each morning as she helps the children get ready for the day, Anika does her best not to show her sadness. She misses her sisters and wonders if she will ever see them again. As each day passes, her hope slowly melts away. ■

Choice 5dd

Anika decides to try to find somewhere that she and her sisters can be together. While she doesn't know what their future will hold, she can't bear to break apart what is left of her family.

Action!

Go to a station you haven't visited yet that is not occupied by another group. Follow the instructions for that activity.

End Result 5dd

In hopes of finding a distant relative in the capital city of Dhaka, Anika uses the little money she has for bus tickets.

As they approach the outskirts of the city, Anika is dismayed by the filth and odors of the slums. Her relative has moved, and no one can tell her where. She and her sisters are on their own and out of options. With nowhere else to turn, Anika begins collecting garbage to sell. At 14, her hopes for her own future are gone. And the best she can do for her sisters is watch over them at the local shelter that they now call home. ■

Scenario 4p

Anika's new job as a domestic laborer is a day's travel from her village. She works long hours, cooking, cleaning, and caring for young children. She works harder than she ever thought she could.

After several months, Anika adds up her wages. It will take years before she can save enough to support her sisters.

Should she stay where she is and accept her lot, or try to find some way to reunite with her sisters? Which choice would you make?

Anika's Story (cont.)

Choice 5ee

Anika decides to stay at her job and continue saving.

She must trust that her sisters are in good care, and that her aunt can provide for them better than she can.

Action!

Go to a station you haven't visited yet that is not occupied by another group.
Follow the instructions for that activity.

End Result 5ee

Each morning as she helps the children get ready for the day, Anika does her best not to show her sadness. She is grateful for the money she's been able to save, but she misses her family and wonders if she will see them again. As each day passes, she slowly loses hope.

As she thinks back on her life in the village, her heart aches. Never did she imagine things would become so difficult. The happy memories of her childhood seem like a distant dream when she thinks of the difficult future ahead. ■

Choice 5ff

Anika leaves her position and returns to her aunt's home.

She can't wait any longer to be with her family.

Action!

Go to a station you haven't visited yet that is not occupied by another group.
Follow the instructions for that activity.

End Result 5ff

Since her aunt cannot feed them all, Anika decides to take her sisters and start over in a new place. In hopes of finding a distant relative in the capital city of Dhaka, she uses the little money she has for bus tickets.

As they approach the outskirts of the city, Anika is dismayed by the filth and odors of the slums. Her relative has moved, and no one can tell her where. She and her sisters are on their own and out of options. With nowhere else to turn, Anika begins collecting garbage to sell. At 14, her hopes for her own future are gone. And the best she can do for her sisters is watch over them at the local shelter that they now call home. ■

CHILDHOOD LOST

POVERTY SIMULATION

Debrief

Gather all of the participants back together in a large group for a debrief time. Sample questions to ask:

1. What outcomes did your choices result in for Anika?
2. What were some of the frustrations you had as you went through Anika's story?
3. Did you experience unexpected turns in the story? What were they?
4. Describe how the station activities made you feel.
5. What were some of the frustrations in the Individual Challenge?
6. Describe how it felt to come across situations that were unfair.
7. When you had to make decisions as a group, how did those conversations go? How did you decide which choice to make if there was a difference of opinion?
8. What are some of the things you've learned through this experience?
9. What are a few of the hardships that children like Anika face?
10. If you could have changed anything for Anika, what outcome would you have liked to see?
11. How does this experience inspire you to make a difference? What are some actions you think you could take?