



DIG DEEPER
WEEK 3

LIFE IN A SLUM

When your family sees the slums this week with Kevin, Sam, and Binoj, it's easy to wonder, "Why don't the people move somewhere else?"

The problem is, people who live in the slums can't afford to live anywhere else. Binoj's slum is in the city of Mumbai, one of the biggest cities in India. Many families in India who are very poor come to Mumbai because they figure it's a big city with lots of opportunities to earn money and have a better life.

However, when they arrive, many of them are disappointed to discover that they can't afford to live in the city and don't have the skills to find a good job. In fact, one out of every four adults in India is illiterate—they're grown-ups, unable to read, write, or do simple math. These adults can't find a job that will pay enough to support their kids.

This leads families to move to the cheapest part of the city to live in: a crowded, dirty, garbage-filled slum.

Homes in the slums are tiny. They often have just a single, small room for an entire family—even a big family with lots of kids. They don't have air conditioning, which is difficult in India's hot summers, with temperatures averaging over 100°F in many areas. Toilets aren't clean, drinking water is dirty, and there's no electricity, so when the sun sets, there's no light to find your way around.

Thankfully, slums like Binoj's are discovering the best light of all through Children's Bible Clubs: the Light of Christ. Through the power of Jesus, kids and families are smiling and full of joy, even in a slum. As they grow in their faith, they excitedly spread Jesus' love! Praise God that He is greater than the hopelessness of a slum and can transform even the darkest places.

