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(WRITE YOUR NAME)

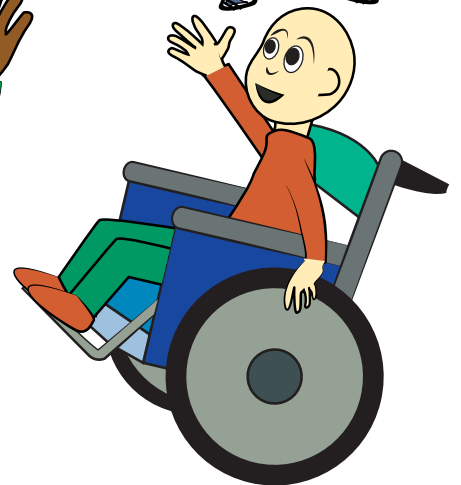
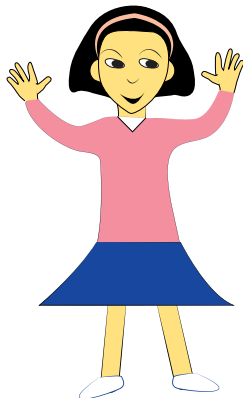
IS A PART OF



THE HIP HOP



PRAISE CIRCLE





**Hello** \_\_\_\_\_

(Your name here)

**It is great to have you join the Hip Hop Praise Circle. We are a group of friends that love to sing, dance and praise God. Let me introduce you to our crew!**





# Eddie

**My name is Eddie. I love playing with my friends and going to school but my time to do these things used to be very limited. I was three years old when my doctor told my mom that I had asthma. Asthma is an illness that stopped me from being able to breathe well whenever I was too active.**

**My parents were having a tough time dealing with my sickness. I missed many days from school because I spent most of my time in the hospital. My father had to work two jobs in order to pay the hospital bills. My mother wasn't able to work because she had to stay home and take care of me.**

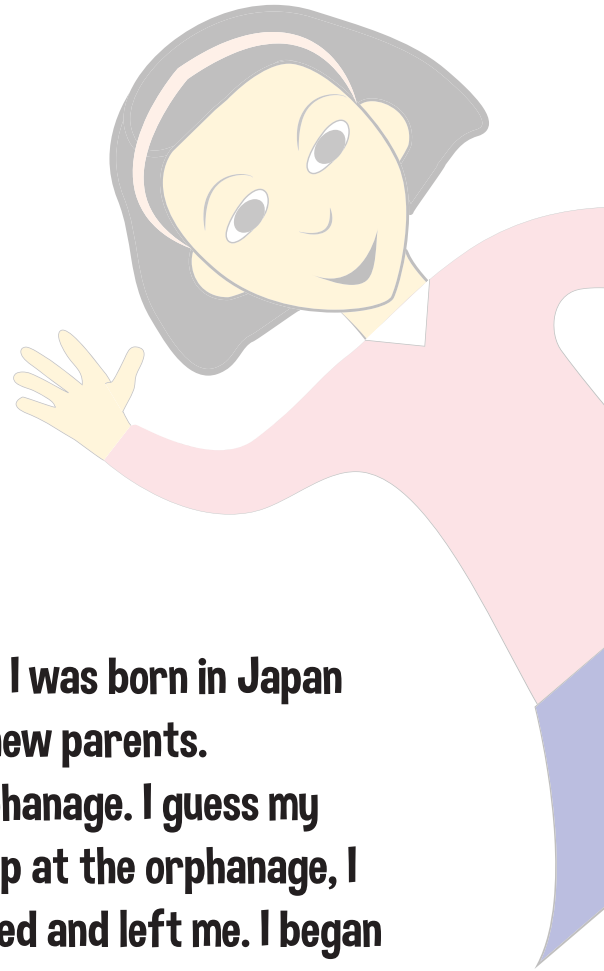
**One day, before my father left for work, my mother gathered us together to pray. Since then, I began to get better and today, I am happy to say, I no longer have asthma.**

**Other members have similar stories, let's go meet them!**

limited - a small amount  
illness - to be sick  
pray - to talk to God

# Aisa

(EYE-suh)



Hi, I'm Aisa which means "loved" in Japanese. I was born in Japan but moved to the U.S.A. 6 months after I met my new parents.

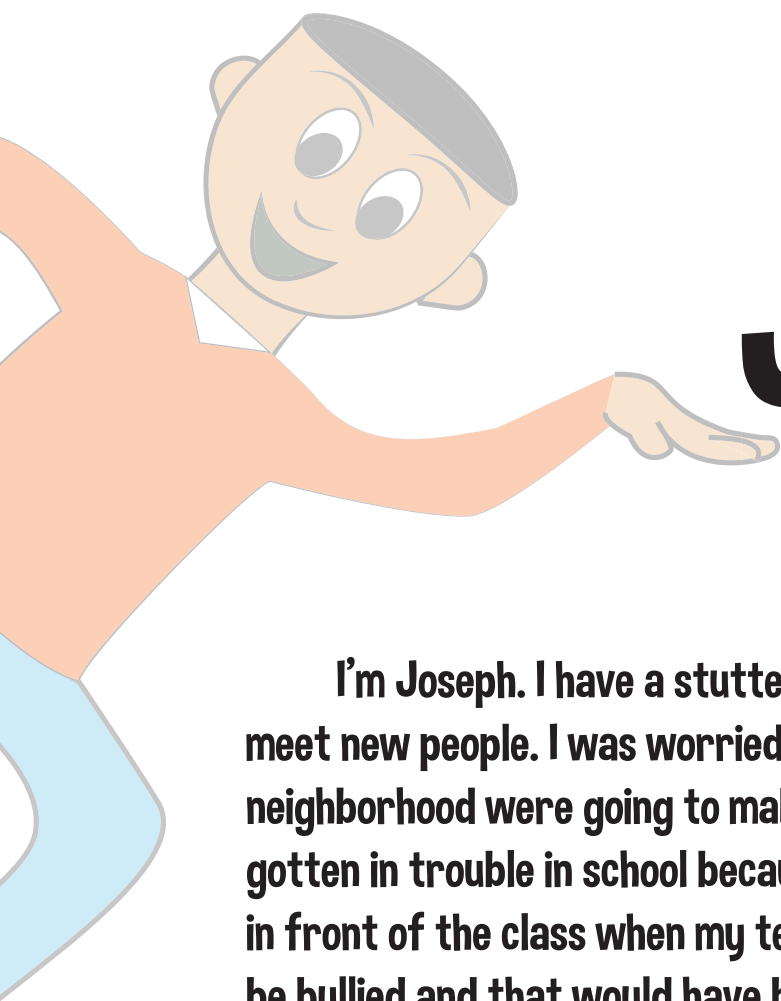
You see, when I was born I was left at an orphanage. I guess my birth parents couldn't take care of me. Growing up at the orphanage, I had many friends but one by one they were adopted and left me. I began to feel lonely and unloved. My mom and dad didn't want me and my friends were gone.

I used to cry every night until one of the new girls heard me and came into my room.

"Aisa what's wrong?" I told her how alone I felt. She told me to never feel alone. She said that before her mother passed away, she would pray with her and tell her that no matter what happens in life, God is always with her. She said that God was always with me too!

That day, she taught me how to pray and told me to pray every night. The next week, a couple walked into the orphanage and asked for me! I couldn't believe it! From that day on, I knew that God was real and that I'd never be alone.

orphanage - a place where orphans are cared for  
orphan - a child who doesn't have parents  
adopted - to be taken care of by a family as their own child



# Joseph

**I'm Joseph. I have a stutter which used to make it hard for me to meet new people. I was worried that the kids at school and in my neighborhood were going to make fun of me so I didn't speak. I've even gotten in trouble in school because I never wanted to answer questions in front of the class when my teachers asked me to. I thought I would be bullied and that would have been worse than getting detention!**

**The only thing that helped me was singing. I love to sing! Whenever I felt scared or embarrassed, I'd go to a quiet place and sing to myself. I would never sing in front of anyone, not even my parents. I wanted to share my gift but I was too afraid. Every night, I would ask God to help me to be brave but it seemed like He wasn't listening. It was when I was forced to perform in front of my entire school, that I realized that God heard my prayers. He gave me the confidence to sing with all of my heart. My entire school stood for me and clapped, giving me a standing ovation. Now, I am not afraid to sing or even speak to anyone and I am able to make new friends like you!**

**stutter** - to repeat a word or sound

**embarrassed** - to feel foolish around people

**confidence** - a feeling that you can do something well

**detention** - a punishment given to students in school

An illustration of two children performing a handstand. On the left, a boy with a light brown complexion is upside down, wearing a purple long-sleeved shirt and orange pants. On the right, a girl with a darker complexion and curly hair is also upside down, wearing a yellow long-sleeved shirt and purple pants. The background is white with the title text in the center.

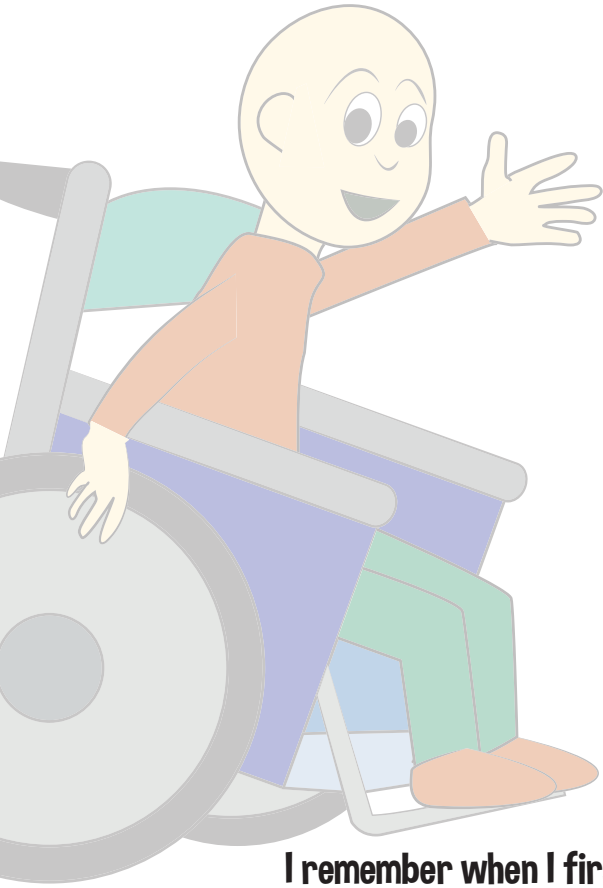
# Marcus & Selena

**We are Marcus and Selena and we're brother and sister. As the older brother, I am supposed to look out for my sister. Our whole life changed when our mother dropped us off at our father's house, drove away and we never saw her again. My sister thought it was her fault but I knew better so I spent my time teaching and comforting my sister. I wanted her to know that my mom didn't leave because my sister did anything wrong. She left because she couldn't take care of us.**

**When our parents got divorced, my mother was not the same so I believe she left because she thought it was best for us.**

**After she left us with my dad, a hurricane destroyed our community, including my dad's house. It was hard for us for a long time but we prayed everyday as a family and eventually my dad got a new job and we got a new, bigger house. Now, we're happier than we've ever been.**

**divorced - when a married couple splits up  
comforting - to make someone feel better  
hurricane - a dangerous storm**



# David

**I remember when I first met Aisa, Joseph, Marcus, Selena, and Eddie. I was sitting by the window as they played outside. They came to my window and yelled up,**

**“What’s your name?”**

**“David,” I said sadly, knowing that we couldn’t be friends but they didn’t allow me to be lonely. They learned that I was born without the use of my legs; they learned that I spent a lot of time alone. They also learned that I did not believe in God.**

**Whenever I asked my parents about God they would tell me that they could not believe in a God who would allow me to be born without the ability to walk. Even though the gang believed in God and I didn’t, it didn’t stop them from being my friend. They took the time to try to understand me and my lack of belief.**

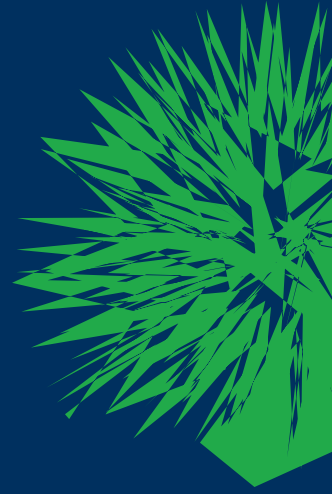
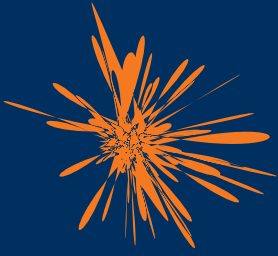
**After a few weeks, Eddie asked, “Do you mind if we pray for you?” I told them that I didn’t mind and they gathered in a circle and prayed. All of a sudden, they started singing and praising God. I couldn’t believe how happy and humble they were with this God that they couldn’t even see. They had faith in Him and I wanted to also. They told me to ask God for healing in my body and my spirit. Now, I talk to God every day and I believe He gives me the strength to do therapy for my legs. I have begun to walk and even run a bit with my friends and I know that I will get stronger. I am able to sing and dance with the Hip Hop Praise Circle. Thank you God!**

**humble - not thinking of yourself as better than other people**

**faith - belief in God**

**spirit - the part of a person that connects with God and never dies**





**You've met the crew! Now we want  
you to join us.  
Let's thank God!**

(Turn the page to sing our club song)

Play your CD or download the song on



**SING:**

♪ Thank you God, thank, thank you God.  
Thank you God, thank, thank you God. ♪

**CLAP**

**CLAP**

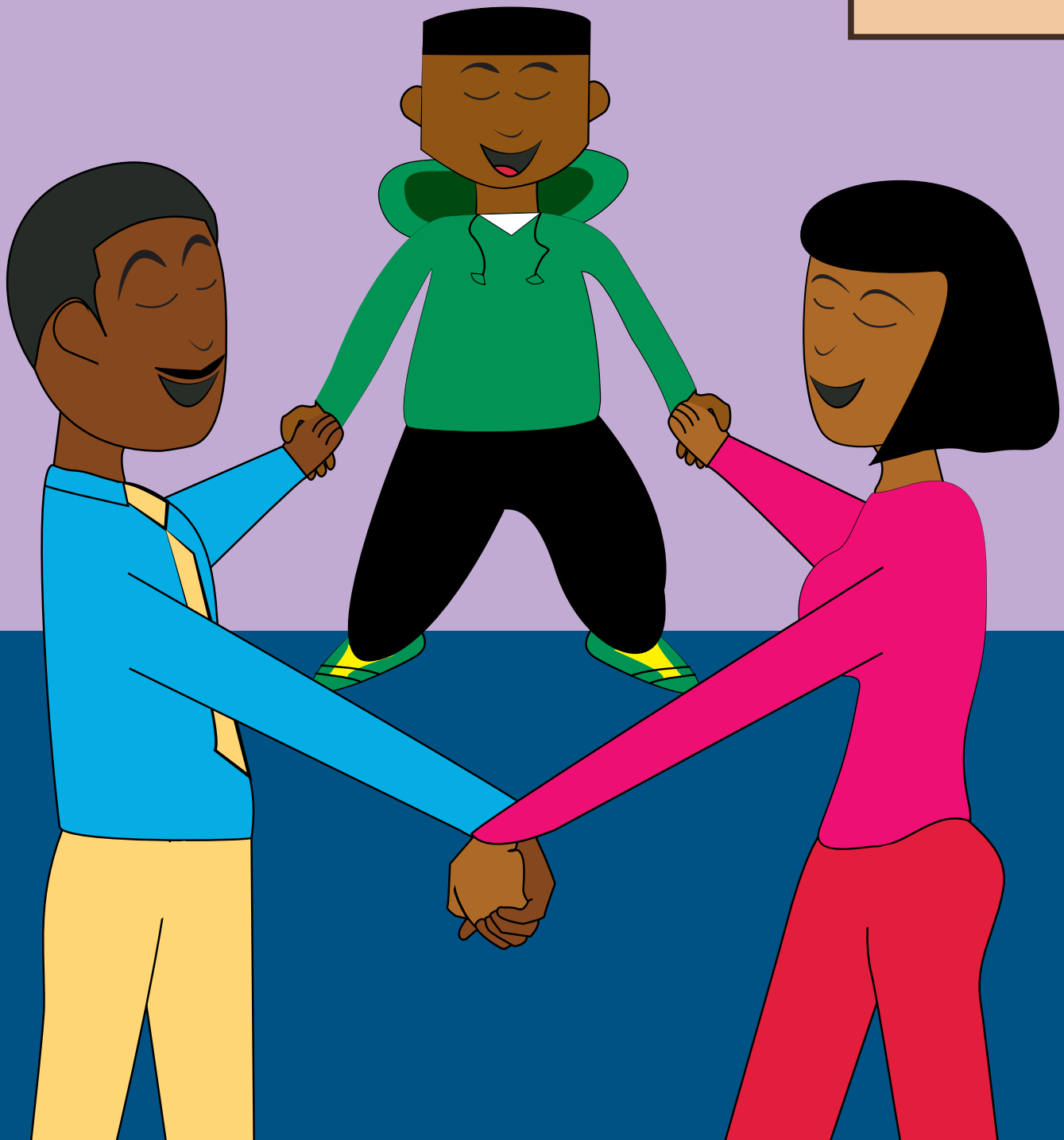


**CLAP**

♪ Thank you God, thank, thank you God.  
Thank you God, thank, thank you God. ♪



**Thank you God  
for waking us up today.  
We get together  
and in your name we pray.**



**Thank you God  
for the air that we breathe.  
We do our best  
so that you will be pleased.**



**SING:**

♪ Thank you God, thank, thank you God.  
Thank you God, thank, thank you God. ♪

**CLAP** **CLAP** **CLAP**

