

## We should be grateful for what we have

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Picture yourself eating dinner tonight, in your nice comfortable house surrounded by your family. For us, it's easy to imagine. Because it's our everyday life, it's reality. But to the people who live in countries like India, China, Nigeria, Bangladesh, where a majority of people live on a \$1.25 every day, our life is like a dream. We have access to clean water, electricity, health care, and safe food. We go to school every day. We go to bed every night, feeling safe and warm. We don't have to worry about whether we'll have a meal tomorrow. We have everything anyone could ever wish for. And we take it all for granted. We focus so much on the little details in life, that we forget to focus on the big picture. Yes, sometimes life pulls us in many different directions, and it makes you feel like nothing goes the way you want it to. Sometimes we have bad days at school, or at work, and we feel like hiding for the rest of our lives. But these are all struggles we have because we are blessed enough to have an education, and a steady career. We should be grateful for what we have.

The countries I mentioned earlier are the countries with the highest population of people living in poverty. These people live on \$1.25 or less on a daily basis. They don't have clean water or safe homes. Many are uneducated. Imagine waking up every day, and wondering if you will live to see tomorrow. Waking up and finding out that your brother or sister died because of a disease or starvation. To me, this sounds like something from a zombie apocalypse movie. But to the millions of children around the world that live in poverty, this is a harsh reality. Nearly half of the people who live in poverty are children. According to UNICEF, about 22,000 children die each day from poverty. Kids, just like you and me. There are kids that have never stepped foot into a classroom because they are too busy taking care of their brothers and sisters. Kids who start work as soon as they can talk to support their family. They all dream for a life like mine. I have great education. I live in a

safe house. I can do whatever I want, whenever I want. I don't have to worry about the cost of something when I go to the store. I can be whatever I want to be. I'm incredibly blessed. I will never forget to be grateful for the life I have now.

You may think just because one person learned to be grateful, it won't help save the 3 billion people living in poverty. That may be true, but the way I see it, when a person starts appreciating what they have, it opens up their view of the world. They start thinking about the world around them, and what they can do to improve it. It may be just one person doing an impossible task. But history has taught us that one person can make a huge difference. A single idea inspires millions of people. And millions of people can change the world. So look around you. Stop being centered on the little details. Appreciate all the things you have and what people do for you. You have an ideal life.

Don't take it for granted.