

## DETAILS



### **Zion Learns to See** *Opening Our Eyes to Homelessness*

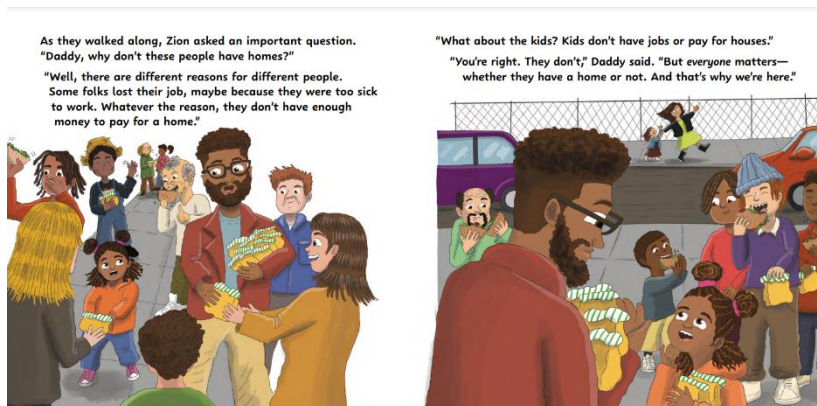
March 12, 2024 | \$18, 32 pages, hardcover | 978-1-5140-0669-6

## Every Person Matters to God

Zion has no idea what she's getting into when she decides to join her dad at his work on Saturday. But she quickly discovers that a day at the community center brings new and wonderful people into her life. Join Zion as she learns about people experiencing homelessness and see how she is moved to respond as she recognizes that all people matter to God, and that means every person should matter to us.

Inspired by real-life events, this story written by Terence Lester and Zion Lester, and illustrated by Subi Bosa, will be enjoyed by children and the adults who read with them. Also included is a note from the author to encourage further conversation about the content.

### Look Inside:

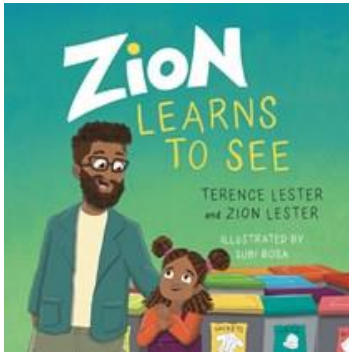


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## Q & A



### **Zion Learns to See** *Opening Our Eyes to Homelessness*

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When Zion joins her dad at work, she discovers that a day at the community center brings new and wonderful people into her life. Inspired by real events, this children's book allows kids and adults to learn with Zion about people experiencing homelessness and see how she is moved to respond as she recognizes that all people matter to God.

## Age is No Barrier to Service

### What motivated you to write this book?

**Terence Lester:** For the past decade, our family has been working with adults to foster understanding and compassion toward the unhoused community. We noticed that misconceptions often led to fear, which adults could easily pass on to their children. This book aims to educate parents and value each person as worthy in the eyes of God. Co-authored by myself (Terence) and my daughter, Zion, the book is based on our real-life relationship and experiences.

### Briefly summarize the central thesis of your book. What is distinctive about this idea and/or your approach?

**Terence:** The core message of our book is that age is no barrier to service; children can learn to value people, whether they have a permanent address or not. Our unique approach lies in showing how a child's compassion can create a ripple effect, inspiring others to serve as well.

### What are the five main things you want readers to take away from your book?

**Terence:**

- Our children are always observing us—how we behave in our families, communities, and professions.
- Age is not a barrier to compassion; children can learn empathy toward those in vulnerable situations.
- Parents have the opportunity to be role models of service, both in religious and worldly contexts.
- Opportunities exist to empower children with service ideas, regardless of their age.
- Supporting children's initiatives can have a cascading positive impact on other children and families.

### Is there anything else you want to let us know about the book?

**Terence:** This book is based on actual events. Zion's early exposure to serving vulnerable people inspired her to initiate a campaign among her second-grade peers, eventually involving her entire school.



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## Father and Daughter Serving and Writing Together

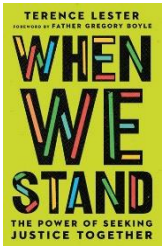


**TERENCE LESTER** (PhD, Interdisciplinary Studies, Union Institute and University) is a minister, speaker, community activist, author, and founder of [Love Beyond Walls](#), a not-for-profit organization focused on poverty awareness and community mobilization. His campaigns on behalf of the poor, including #LoveSinksIn, have been featured in *USA Today*, *Black Enterprise*, *Essence*, and *Reader’s Digest*. They have been viewed by millions of people globally on *The Today Show*, *Good Morning America*, CBS News, NBC, Upworthy, and “The Bright Side” with Katie Couric. His books include *When We Stand, I See You*, *Getting Past Stuck*, *Simple Prayers for Hurting People*, and *Identity Theft*.



**ZION LESTER** became interested in the work her dad, Terence Lester, was doing on a Saturday morning when she was seven years old. Since then, she has grown to become a community leader, writer, and speaker. She has also continued to regularly serve with [Love Beyond Walls](#) and encourages others her age and younger to volunteer too.

Also by Terence Lester:



**When We Stand: The Power of Seeking Justice Together**  
May 18, 2021 | \$16, 224 pages, paperback | 978-1-8308-3178-4

Activist Terence Lester knows it’s hard to change the world. But mobilizing and using our gifts in collaboration with others empowers us to do more than we ever could on our own. Offering practical ways for us to get involved as groups, families, churches, and communities, Lester shows how the body of Christ can transform society when we stand together.



**I See You: How Love Opens Our Eyes to Invisible People**  
August 13, 2019 | \$17, 184 pages, paperback | 978-1-8308-4572-9

It can be easy to overlook the poor and homeless. But truly seeing leads us to act with compassion and justice. Sharing personal encounters and real-life stories, Terence Lester calls us to see the invisible people around us through God’s eyes, restoring their dignity and helping them flourish. And when we recognize our own inner spiritual poverty, we have greater empathy for others, no matter their circumstances.



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