

Help Spread the Gospel: *Feed the hungry*

LESSON AT A GLANCE

Facilitator Notes:

- For Your Journey episodes can be found on the [NAC USA YouTube channel](#) *and* in the [NAC USA mobile app](#)

I wonder...

- Why should I help those in need?
- How am I supposed to serve those in need?
- How does helping others in need spread the gospel?

I believe...

- We are called to meet the physical and spiritual needs of others. (Catechism Q&A question 155)
- God expects us to love and serve those around us wherever possible, not just when it is convenient, and however possible. (Catechism Q&A question 286)
- Because of the love Christ has shown me, I am willing to sacrifice to serve others and share His love with them. (Catechism Q&A question 177, 283)

Materials:

- IGNITE Bible
- Catechism Q&A
- White board, dry erase markers
- For Your Journey
 - [Episode 25 - Providing and Cultivating](#)
 - [Episode 66 – Humanitarian Giving vs. Christian Giving](#)
- nac.today - "Many Questions and Many Answers", <http://nac.today/en/158033/523069>

References:

- Bible verses: Matthew 25: 35-36
- Catechism Q&A questions 155, 177, 283, 286

PRE DISCUSSION MESSAGE TO PARENTS AND STUDENT (TO BE SENT VIA EMAIL OR TEXT)

Have you ever needed something and someone helped you? Come learn how you can help spread the gospel by helping others.

POST DISCUSSION MESSAGE TO PARENTS (TO BE SENT VIA EMAIL OR TEXT)

Facilitator Notes:

- Consider including a link to one of the For Your Journey episodes listed in the "References" section above for families to watch together and use as a conversation starter.

Dear Parents,

This week the "I Wonder...." questions are about how we can spread the gospel by helping others. Talk to your student about ways (big or small) that you can help others in need.

As always, if you have questions about the topic, please feel free to contact us.

Your Youth Leaders

SUNDAY SERMON REFLECTIONS (up to 10 minutes)

Facilitator Notes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allow 2-3 students to share their reflections. For larger groups, vary who shares from week to week. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ What Bible verse was used for the basis of last Sunday's sermon? ➤ What were some of the main takeaways? What did you learn? ➤ So far this week, how have you applied what you learned from the sermon last Sunday? ➤ Going forward, how will you apply what you learned from the sermon last Sunday?
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HOOK (up to 15 minutes)

Facilitator Notes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have white board/paper and markers ready Make sure the items the student list are true needs, not just wants 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ How are you and how are you feeling today? ➤ Who would like to share their point to ponder or call to action from last week? ➤ Discuss needs vs. wants (needs are required, wants are not) ➤ Ask the students if they have ever had a need. Write down 4-6 needs the students have provided (ex. help with schoolwork, a winter coat on a cold day, medicine when ill). Ask the students if the need was met and how it was met (ex. a student needed help with a topic at school – a tutor/teacher/friend helped them understand, a need for an illness –parents/doctors provided antibiotics). ➤ Then ask the students: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ How did you feel when your need was met? ○ How do you think God felt when you were helped?
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SET THE STAGE (up to 1 minute)

Facilitator Notes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preview the "I wonder" questions with the students. 	I wonder... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Why should I help those in need? ➤ How am I supposed to serve those in need? ➤ How does helping others in need spread the gospel?
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LESSON (up to 25 minutes)

Facilitator Notes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Matthew 25:35-36: "...for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink.; I was a stranger and you took Me in; I was naked and you clothed Me; I was 	<p>Read Matthew 25:35-36 together. The questions below pertain to these verses.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Ask the students: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Who is the "Me" Jesus was referring to? (Jesus) ○ How are we helping Jesus when we help others? ○ Student question #1: Why should I help those in need? ➤ Ask the students: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ What needs were filled? (ex. food, drink, shelter, clothing, visiting) ○ Should we only help others with their needs when it is convenient for us? (No, we should help whenever possible. This also means that we DO something, not just pray for them.)
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sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me."

- IGNITE Bible – Flashpoint: "Kindness" (page 1001)

- Read the Flashpoint titled "Kindness" in your IGNITE Bible.
 - Ask the students:
 - Do you need specific qualities in order to help those in need? If yes, what are those qualities? If no, why not?

Student question #2

How am I supposed to serve those in need?

- Have the students break into groups of 2 or 3 (if possible) and brainstorm five practical ways they can help those in need in their families, congregations, and communities.
- If time allows, let the groups share a few ideas that they came up with.
- In addition to serving a physical need, it is also worth highlighting how, as Christians, we have an opportunity and responsibility to serve and meet spiritual needs as well.

Student question #3

What are some things you must do in order to feed, clothe, and visit those in need?

- Possible answers are:
 - You need to be aware/recognize someone has a need.
 - You have to have the resources to help them.
 - You have to give something up or be willing to sacrifice your time/energy/possessions.
 - Ways to prepare for more long-term helping and serving:
 - Consider a career that allows you to help people.
 - Budgeting and being a good steward of what God has given you so that you can help others.

Student question #4

How does helping others in need spread the gospel?

- Watch For Your Journey – Episode 25, Providing and Cultivating (minute marker 3:04 – 5:00)
 - Before watching the For Your Journey clip, remind the students of the international New Apostolic Church mission statement.
 - Have the students write down possible answers to **Student question #4** while watching the video clip.
 - Have the group share their answers after watching the video clip.

Share the following with the students about helping others in need:

Excerpt from article on nac.today – [Many Questions and Many Answers](#):

People often seek help, for example, from their fellow human beings. "No human being can afford to live only for himself today. We are dependent on others, and are grateful for any help our peers can provide." However, people are only people, and their power is limited, noted the Chief Apostle. They cannot solve all problems. "Let us seek help from God! After all, we believe that God is almighty. God can help in every situation."

- For Your Journey episodes can be found on the [NAC USA YouTube channel](#) *and* in the [NAC USA mobile app](#)

WHAT'S IN IT FOR ME? (up to 10 minutes)

Facilitator Notes:

- If the topic of 'motives' in serving comes up, feel free to utilize [For Your Journey | Episode 66 – Humanitarian Giving vs. Christian Giving](#). Or consider sending the link to the episode as a follow up a few days after the youth discussion.

Close with the "I Wonder..." questions

- As you review each question, stop and check in with the group to be sure there are no misunderstandings or misconceptions.
- Allow the students to answer with an "I Believe..." statement, or state an "I Believe..." statement in their own words, for each of the "I Wonder..." questions.
- Remind the students that on their Confirmation day, they will or have already promised and committed to surrendering themselves to God. Being obedient to God means following His command and example to love.

I wonder...

- Why should I help those in need?
- How am I supposed to serve those in need?
- How does helping others in need spread the gospel?

I believe...

- We are called to meet the physical and spiritual needs of others. (Catechism Q&A question 155)
- God expects us to love and serve those around us wherever possible, not just when it is convenient, and however possible. (Catechism Q&A question 286)
- Because of the love Christ has shown me, I am willing to sacrifice to serve others and share His love with them. (Catechism Q&A question 177, 283)

Point to Ponder....

- Think about God as the One who knows all your needs and can fulfill them.

A Call to Action....

- Over the next week, pay attention to the people around you. Can you find someone who is in need? (This may require you to talk with people to discover any needs they may have.) Make a plan, using some of the ideas brainstormed in the lesson, of how you will help this person in the week following your time of observation.

Weekly Reflections

What Bible verse was used for the basis of last Sunday's sermon?

What were some of the main takeaways? What did you learn?

So far this week, how have you applied what you learned from the sermon last Sunday?

Going forward, how will you apply what you learned from the sermon last Sunday?

Point to Ponder...

Call to Action...

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<p>I wonder...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Why should I help those in need? ➤ How am I supposed to serve those in need? ➤ How does helping others in need spread the gospel? 	<p>I believe...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ We are called to meet the physical and spiritual needs of others. (Catechism Q&A question 155) ➤ God expects us to love and serve those around us wherever possible, not just when it is convenient, and however possible. (Catechism Q&A question 286) ➤ Because of the love Christ has shown me, I am willing to sacrifice to serve others and share His love with them. (Catechism Q&A questions 177, 283).
<p>References: Matthew 25: 35-36, Catechism Q&A questions 155, 177, 283, 286</p>	

1. Why should I help those in need?

2. How am I supposed to serve those in need?

3. What are some things you must do in order to feed, clothe, and visit those in need?

4. How does helping others in need spread the gospel?

Point to Ponder: Think about God as the One who knows all your needs and can fulfill them.

Call to Action: Over the next week, pay attention to the people around you. Can you find someone who is in need? (This may require you to talk with people to discover any needs they may have.) Make a plan, using some of the ideas brainstormed in the lesson, of how you will help this person in the week following your time of observation.