

Respond to the call to serve: *Characteristics of a trader*

LESSON AT A GLANCE

Facilitator Notes:	<p>I wonder...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Should I feel compelled to serve others? ➤ What does Jesus teach me about serving others? ➤ Who is my neighbor? <p>I believe...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ I show my love for Jesus and fulfill His commandments by serving those around me. ➤ Jesus teaches me that being a Christian means a life of service. ➤ My neighbor can be anyone with whom we come into contact. (Catechism Q&A question 287) <p>Materials:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ IGNITE Bible ➤ Catechism Q&A ➤ "Definition of a trader" video https://www.rightnowmedia.org/Content/illustration/98580 <p>References:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Catechism Q&A questions 286-290 ➤ Bible verses: Matthew 25:31-46, Mark 9:35, Luke 10:25-37, Luke 12:22-34, John 15:9-17, 1 John 3:17
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PRE DISCUSSION MESSAGE TO PARENTS AND STUDENT (TO BE SENT VIA EMAIL OR TEXT)

	<p>Do you consider yourself a trader? Let's redefine the term this week in small group. See you there!</p>
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POST DISCUSSION MESSAGE TO PARENTS (TO BE SENT VIA EMAIL OR TEXT)

Facilitator Notes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please keep the main message intact, but feel free to add local information as necessary. 	<p>Dear Parents,</p> <p>This week the "I Wonder...." questions are about our responsibility to serve others and what Jesus teaches us about serving others. The example of the Good Samaritan was referenced. This particular Bible passage has come up a few times over the past year because it demonstrates a key command from Jesus. Jesus expects us to help those that are in need.</p> <p>In small group we also watched a video about what it means to be a "trader". This video can be found at, https://www.rightnowmedia.org/Content/illustration/98580.</p> <p>Feel free to watch the video, perhaps again with your student, and ask them what from the video made an impression on them and how it will impact their decision making going forward.</p> <p>As always, if you have questions about the topic, feel free to contact us</p> <p>Your Youth Leaders</p>
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SUNDAY SERMON REFLECTIONS (up to 10 minutes)

Facilitator Notes:

- Allow 2-3 students to share their reflections. For larger groups, vary who shares from week to week.

- 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?

HOOK (up to 15 minutes)

Facilitator Notes:

- Allow 2-3 students to share their reflections. For larger groups, vary who shares from week to week.

- 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?

These true/false questions are to help identify any misconceptions the students may have about the parable of the Good Samaritan. The facilitator can ask the questions to the group as a whole, have the students write down their answers individually and then review all the correct answers at the end, or turn it into a game and divide the group into teams that have to 'buzz in' or make some sound in order to be able to answer the question first. Feel free to be creative.

1. The parable of the Good Samaritan is based on actual events. (**False.** It is a parable, a story to illustrate a religious point.)
2. A Samaritan was not respected by the religious leaders in Jesus' day. (**True.**)
3. Jesus told the parable of the good Samaritan to a lawyer. (**True.**)
4. The two denarii the Samaritan spent to have someone take care of the injured man are equal to about \$20 U.S. today. (**False.** Closer to \$200 U.S.)
5. The point of the Good Samaritan parable is that we should only look out for other Christians. (**False.** God's love knows no boundaries.)

SET THE STAGE (1 minute)

Facilitator Notes:

- Preview the "I wonder" questions with the students.

I wonder...

- Should I feel compelled to serve others?
- What does Jesus teach me about serving others?
- Who is my neighbor?

LESSON (up to 25 minutes)

Facilitator Notes:

- **Luke 10:25-37** - Not included due to length.
- Have students take turns reading the parable out loud for the whole class. A good way to do this would be to have each student read 2-3 verses depending on the number of students in attendance.
- If a student would not like to read, do not force them to. Simply go on to the next student.

The parable of the Good Samaritan

This parable was also discussed in the "Help spread the gospel" semester (Hg), however it is worth revisiting and this discussion will dive deeper into what it means to be a trader...but not in the common sense. The parable of the Good Samaritan is important because whenever someone asked Jesus which of God's commandments was the most important, Jesus said these two are the most important of all: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind" and "Love your neighbor as yourself." (Luke 10:27) When pressed further for clarification about the two above commandments, Jesus responded with this story to demonstrate, using a real world example, that we should be compelled to serve others. It is a way that we transform our nature using Jesus as our example while also helping to spread the gospel message of God's love.

- **To review, or for students that are new to your small group this semester, read the parable of the Good Samaritan in Luke 10:25-37**

After the parable is read, play the "Definition of a trader" video:

- <https://www.rightnowmedia.org/Content/illustration/98580>
- Ask the students to write down any points from the video that stand out.

Early in the video, the narrator asks "have you ever wondered what life is all about?"

Student Question #1: Given what you see on the news and social media, what would you say most people think life is all about?

- The video explained that we are bombarded everyday with messages from the world to get more 'stuff' and be concerned with our earthly success.
- Ask the students if they have seen this mentality in the culture around them.

Student Question #2: What four things are characteristics of a trader?

The video goes on to explain that a trader is a new kind of missionary, not defined by geography, but defined by a resolve to do four things:

- Choose daily
- Hate injustice
- Work as worship
- Act swiftly

Student Question #3: What must we choose to do daily?

- As Christians, we want to choose daily to sacrifice our time and money to apply the parable of the Good Samaritan and to “go and do likewise”.
- When we are commanded to ‘love your neighbor as yourself’ it is important to understand who is our neighbor and who we are a neighbor to.
 - The parable of the Good Samaritan is Jesus’ response to someone asking him “Who is my neighbor?”
 - My neighbor can be anyone with whom we come into contact. (Catechism Q&A question 287)

While we often understand the term ‘neighbor’ in relation to ourselves, such as the question before the parable “Who is my neighbor?”, it is important to highlight that we too are neighbors to those in need

Student Question #4:

In following the Samaritan’s example of being a neighbor, we too want to strive to have:

- **ALERT EYES** – Luke writes, “But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him...” This Samaritan was going about his daily routine; he wasn’t on a mission trip or doing a service project or at a church event. His EYES were scanning his surroundings. He didn’t have his iPod on tuning out the world and thinking only of himself.
- **A COMPASSIONATE HEART** – “...he took pity on him.” His HEART had compassion in it. He was selfless. Things would have happened before this moment to prepare the Samaritan’s heart to not be cold and distant, but to be warm and open.
- **QUICK FEET** – “He went to him...” His FEET took him closer. He didn’t just care from a distance; he was willing to get close. This wasn’t just an “I’ll pray for you, brother,” it was an up close and personal encounter.

- ACTIVE HANDS – "...and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine." The Samaritan was willing to get his HANDS dirty as he bandaged the wounded man. Can you imagine tending to the wounds of a stranger?
- A GENEROUS ATTITUDE – "The next day he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Look after him,' he said, 'and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expenses you may have.'" To top it all off, the Samaritan was GENEROUS with his money by paying for the man to stay at the inn. In that day, one silver coin was worth a full day's wage. How many of us would give up two whole days of pay for someone we just met?
- How would our communities, our congregations, our schools, our families be different if more people intentionally chose daily to have alert eyes, a compassionate heart, quick feet, active hands, a generous attitude?

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

Facilitator Notes:

Wrap up the lesson with an overview reminder that "Responding to the call to serve" means that we are also looking for opportunities to serve

- Also as a reminder, this whole semester is based on the "R" statement of the THRIVE membership expectations, "Respond to the call to serve".
- We respond to the call to serve when we trade in the expectations of the culture around us and embrace the expectation to serve others that Christ has for us. We intentionally choose daily to be the neighbor to those in need.

Close with the "I Wonder...." questions

- Ask a student to read an "I Wonder...." question, and invite another student to answer with an "I Believe...." statement or an "I Believe....." statement in their own words.
- As you review each question and answer, stop and check in with the group to be sure there are no misunderstandings or misconceptions.
- Remind the students that on their Confirmation day, they will or have already promised and committed to surrendering themselves to God, which means following His example to serve others, especially those in need.

I wonder...

- Should I feel compelled to serve others?
- What does Jesus teach me about serving others?
- Who is my neighbor?

I believe...

- I show my love for Jesus and fulfill His commandments by serving those around me.
- Jesus teaches me that being a Christian means a life of service.
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Point to Ponder....

- Why isn't talking about faith in Jesus enough? Why do I have to help people too?

A Call to Action....

- Think of a distraction that deters you from having alert eyes as a neighbor. Commit to reducing that distraction. Ask a parent or friend to help hold you accountable to the commitment.

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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Student Question #1: Given what you see on the news and social media, what would you say most people think life is all about?

Student Question #2: What four things are characteristics of a trader?

Student Question #3: What must we choose to do daily?

Student Question #4: In following the Samaritan's example of being a neighbor, we too want to strive to have:

Point to Ponder....

Why isn't talking about faith in Jesus enough? Why do I have to help people too?

A Call to Action....

Think of a distraction that deters you from having alert eyes as a neighbor. Commit to reducing that distraction. Ask a parent or friend to help hold you accountable to the commitment.