

## Respond to the call to serve: *Recognizing and responding*

### LESSON AT A GLANCE

<b>Facilitator Notes:</b>	<p><b>I wonder...</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ What should my perspective be when I'm serving others?</li> <li>➤ How do I respond to those in need?</li> </ul> <p><b>I believe...</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ I believe that every person is made in the image of God, that we are all broken, but that we all have something to give.</li> <li>➤ I believe that as a Christian, I have the responsibility to respond to opportunities that God gives me to serve the people around me in ways that utilize my gifts, my possessions, my time, and my talents. My serving will take into consideration their natural and spiritual needs.</li> </ul> <p><b>Materials:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Paper</li> <li>➤ Writing utensils</li> <li>➤ IGNITE Bible</li> <li>➤ <i>Francis Chan on Ministry to the Poor</i> video on YouTube  <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UBFTclNmC-4">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UBFTclNmC-4</a></li> </ul> <p><b>References:</b></p> <p>Bible: Matthew 25:35-40, Luke 12:22-34, Ephesians 2:10</p>
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### PRE DISCUSSION MESSAGE TO PARENTS AND STUDENT (TO BE SENT VIA EMAIL OR TEXT)

Why do you respond to the call to serve? Join us for small group at \_\_\_\_\_.

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

<b>Facilitator Notes:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Please keep the main message intact, but feel free to add local information as necessary.</li> </ul>	<p>Dear Parents,</p> <p>This week the "I Wonder...." questions focus on recognizing our call to serve, what our perspective should be when serving others, and how we serve others. Share with your student an experience you've had of serving others and how it impacted you. As always, if you have questions about the topic, please 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 10 minutes)

**Facilitator Notes:**

- Allow 2-3 students to share their reflections. For larger groups, vary who shares from week to week.
- Write the Bible verses from the Facilitator notes for Student Question #2 on small pieces of paper (2 or 3 verses to each paper) for the students to look up.

- 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?
- Have the students choose a piece of paper and look up each verse in their Bible. Have each student pick one verse that they connect with and ask them to write down what they learn from that verse. Discuss each student's answers.

### SET THE STAGE (1 minute)

**Facilitator Notes:**

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

**I wonder...**

- What should my perspective be when I'm serving others?
- How do I respond to those in need?

### LESSON (up to 25 minutes)

**Facilitator Notes:**

Watch this testimonial video from Francis Chan about ministering to the poor:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UBFTclNmC-4>

**Student Question #1 What should my perspective be when I'm serving others?**

- What is the biblical message to those that are struggling?
  - God is willing to do huge things in your life. You are made in His image!
  - We must continually remind ourselves that we are all made in the image of God and we are all equal.
- What do you think about God calling the *unlikely*?
- What does it tell us about our human nature that we think there are people that are unlikely to be called by God?
  - Consider that every person you know, every person you see in school, on the street, in church, or in a homeless shelter is called by God to do great things.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>A few verses about helping the poor:</b></li> </ul> <p>Deuteronomy 15:11          Proverbs 19:17          Proverbs 22:9          Matthew 5:42          Matthew 10:8          Luke 3:10-11          Luke 6:38          Luke 12:33-34          John 15:12-13          Romans 12:13          Romans 15:1          Galatians 6:2          Ephesians 4:28          Hebrews 6:10          Hebrews 13:16          James 2:14-17          1 John 4:19-20</p>	<p><b>Student Question #2 How do I respond to those in need?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ As a Christian, do you feel that you have a responsibility to those in need?             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ What does Scripture tell us?</li> <li>○ The students can use their responses from the Hook activity to start this discussion.</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ Francis Chan talked about ministering to others while being dependent on God. He mentioned at the end of the video that we can't really do anything unless God does it.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ God not only provides the opportunities for us to serve people, He also equips us to serve them. <b><u>Serving isn't about us "fixing" people, it's about us realizing that we can do nothing without the help of God – we are just tools in His hand.</u></b> We have to continually pray to Him: "What do you want me to do today? Help me see the good works that you have prepared for me (Ephesians 2:10). Give me the right words to say..."</li> <li>○ When we are doing the will of God and taking care of His people, we will feel His direction and presence in our lives.</li> <li>○ What else could you pray to God about when serving others?</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ Read this quote by C.S. Lewis and discuss what it means with the students:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>Don't shine so that others can see you. Shine, so that through you, others can see Him.</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ Read Luke 12:22-34 together.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ What do these verses teach us about being dependent on God?</li> <li>○ <i>For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What does this mean to you?</li> <li>• How do you know where your treasure is?</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ What do all the Scriptures about helping the poor tell us about what God sees as real treasure?</li> <li>○ Read the <b>FLASHPOINT: Anxiety</b> on page 1068 of your IGNITE Bible and discuss how you can help each other combat anxiety and worry so that it doesn't prevent you from serving and giving to others.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
	<p><b>Student Question #3 What does Jesus teach about responding to those in need?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Read Matthew 25:35-40 together.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ What do you think Jesus is trying to tell us about serving others?</li> <li>○ Serving others is serving Christ! Responding to those around us is responding to Christ! Does that change the way you look at people you are serving?</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ Do you find anything interesting about the response of the righteous?             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ They didn't even know they were serving! Serving others, and Christ through others, had become such a part of who they were that they hadn't kept track of it. It wasn't something they did to check off that they were good Christians. It had become part of their nature.</li> <li>○ How can you make serving a part of your life?</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ Read the <b>FLASHPOINT: Kindness</b> on page 1001 of your Bible about kindness.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Think back on your week. Did you miss an opportunity to act kindly?</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

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

**Facilitator Notes:**

**Wrap up the lesson with asking the students to reflect on what they've learned about responding to the call to serve.**

**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 in belief and obedience.

**I wonder...**

- What should my perspective be when I'm serving others?
- How do I respond to those in need?

**I believe...**

- I believe that every person is made in the image of God, that we are all broken, but that we all have something to give.
- I believe that as a Christian, I have the responsibility to respond to opportunities that God gives me to serve the people around me in ways that utilize my gifts, my possessions, my time, and my talents. My serving will take into consideration their natural and spiritual needs.

**Point to Ponder...**

- *What does love look like? It has the hands to help others. It has the feet to hasten to the poor and needy. It has eyes to see misery and want. It has the ears to hear the sighs and sorrows of men. That is what love looks like. – St. Augustine*

**A Call to Action...**

- Think back on the past week. Where did you miss the opportunity to serve others? Where did you miss the chance to be kind? Write a prayer asking God to give you open eyes and an open heart to those around you. Pray that you can depend on Him to show His love to the world through you.

### Weekly Reflections

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

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

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

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

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**Point to Ponder...**

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**Call to Action...**

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### 1. What should my perspective be when I'm serving others?

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### 2. How do I respond to those in need?

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### 3. What does Jesus teach about responding to those in need?

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**Point to Ponder:** *What does love look like? It has the hands to help others. It has the feet to hasten to the poor and needy. It has eyes to see misery and want. It has the ears to hear the sighs and sorrows of men. That is what love looks like.*  
 – St. Augustine

**Call to Action:** Think back on the past week. Where did you miss the opportunity to serve others? Where did you miss the chance to be kind? Write a prayer asking God to give you open eyes and an open heart to those around you. Pray that you can depend on Him to show His love to the world through you.