

Respond to the call to serve: *Put it into action, in your community*

LESSON AT A GLANCE

Facilitator Notes:

- Sunday Sermon Reflections, Point to Ponder and Call to Action should still be shared at the beginning of the lesson.
- Since the format of this lesson is less structured, facilitators can incorporate a light meal or snack into the evening such as pizza or popcorn. Be sure to include this in your Message to Parents so they are aware and can contribute.

This lesson is designed to brainstorm and plan ways for the students to Respond to the call to serve Christ specifically in the context of their community. Listed below are suggested ways for the students to serve Christ by serving their community.

The group, or facilitator, can decide whether the entire group decide on a specific way to serve their community, or if the group comes up with a bank of ideas and the students decide individually which serving method they would like to do for their own community.

The following are a list of starter ideas to use when brainstorming ways for the students to respond to the call to serve Christ by serving their community The students are encouraged to add to, and/or elaborate on, these ideas.

For this particular session of "Put it into action", it may be helpful for the youth, and/or facilitator, to research some local organizations (hospitals/shelters/non-profits/etc.) ahead of time and determine what specific needs they may have that the youth could help with.

Additionally, whatever serving opportunity (or opportunities) are decided upon, it would provide a space to involve other members and generations of the congregation. While the youth are learning about "Responding to the call to serve", it is a member expectation of Christian behavior for all generations.

- Serve at a local homeless shelter or soup kitchen
- Food drives
- Visit someone who lives at a nursing home or who is confined at home because of poor health
- Collect winter clothes and give them to homeless people in the area, or donate them to a local shelter
- Storm troopers – offer to shovel neighborhood driveways during the winter
- As a group plan on extending yourselves to people no one spends time with, the people no one really likes. Eat with them in the cafeteria; walk home from school with them; invite them to an activity the youth group is sponsoring; etc. Make it a regular part of your gatherings to discuss as a group their difficulties, and successes.

Have students work together to complete the questions on the student lesson copy. If time allows, come back together and let students share their responses.

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

Facilitator Notes:

- Please feel free to customize and add local information as necessary.

Dear Parents,
 This semester we are focusing on the "R" lessons of the THRIVE curriculum, "Respond to the call to serve". It's our hope that this semester your student deepens their understanding of what it means to serve Christ by serving our family, our congregation, and community. This week, we brainstormed ideas of how to serve Christ, specifically in our community.

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

SUNDAY SERMON REFLECTIONS (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?

WHAT'S IN IT FOR ME? (15 minutes)

Facilitator Notes:

Wrap up the lesson with the "R" message from THRIVE: Respond to the call to serve by:

- Discovering and developing your spiritual gifts and engaging in the congregation by using those gifts. (Ephesians 4:11-16)
- Edifying the Body of Christ by acknowledging and appreciating the gifts of others. (1 Corinthians 12:4-27)
- Showing your love for Jesus through helping your family, congregation, community, and those in need. (Luke 10:30-37, Matthew 25:35-40, Mark 9:35)
- Directly serving Jesus Christ (Romans 14:17-19)

A Point to Ponder....

- Philippians 2:3-5
 Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.

A Call to Action...

- This week, serve Christ by serving your community.

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...

Respond to the call to serve: *Put it into action, in your community*

What are some ways you could serve Christ by serving your community?

What is needed in order to implement some of these serving ideas?

If the serving idea is something that would only happen once, how could you turn it into a way of serving that gets repeated?

Why is it important to serve Christ by serving your community?

A Point to Ponder....

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A Call to Action...

- This week, serve Christ by serving your community.