

## Respond to the call to serve: *What are spiritual gifts?*

### LESSON AT A GLANCE

#### Facilitator Notes:

#### I wonder...

- What are spiritual gifts?
- Are spiritual gifts the same as natural talents, fruit of the Spirit, or spiritual disciplines?

#### I believe...

- Spiritual gifts are gifts from God that are revealed when we engage the Holy Spirit.
- I believe and understand that while my spiritual gifts are different than my natural talents, the fruit of the Spirit, and spiritual disciplines, all four are important for my life as a follower of Christ.

#### Materials:

- IGNITE Bible
- Toolbox with screwdriver, hammer, tape measure, and an assortment of other tools
- Chart paper or whiteboard
- Markers
- *Spiritual Gifts Definitions* handout for students

#### References:

- *Spiritual Gifts – Extended Definitions* for facilitators
- Bible: Romans 12:4-8, 1 Corinthians 12, Galatians 5:22-23, Ephesians 4:11-16,

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

What are spiritual gifts? This week we will be discussing what spiritual gifts are and are not. Join us tomorrow for small group at \_\_\_\_\_.

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

#### Facilitator Notes:

- Please keep the main message intact, but feel free to add local information as necessary.
- Attach the *Spiritual Gifts Definitions* handout to this message for the parents' reference.

Dear Parents,  
 This week the "I Wonder..." questions are about our spiritual gifts, what they are, and what they are not. Please reference the attached document for a list of the gifts we discussed and their definitions. This week, consider having a conversation with your student about what gifts you have seen your student display. Encourage him/her to look at themselves to see what may be a passion or interest that they may use in serving others and helping to build up the Body of Christ.

Your Youth Leaders

## 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.
- Point out that you *can* get the nail in with the screwdriver – but it's more effective with the correct tool.

- 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?

Place your toolbox on the table and begin by pulling out your hammer and screwdriver.

**Tell the students something like:** I have many different tools in my toolbox. Here is a hammer and a screwdriver. What is a screwdriver created to do? Act like a hammer? Have you tried to use it as hammer? (*act like you are trying to put in a nail with screwdriver*)

It really isn't very effective on nails. Hammers, on the other hand, work really well with nails; you can pull them out or hammer them in. Have you ever tried to put a screw in with a hammer? Doesn't work very well, does it? Each tool was created for a specific purpose.

## SET THE STAGE (1 minute)

### Facilitator Notes:

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

### I wonder...

- What are spiritual gifts?
- Are spiritual gifts the same as natural talents, fruit of the Spirit, or spiritual disciplines?

## LESSON (up to 25 minutes)

### Facilitator Notes:

### Student Question #1 What are spiritual gifts?

Spiritual gifts are gifts from God that are revealed when we engage the Holy Spirit. In this semester, we will be discussing the R of the THRIVE acronym, "Responding to the call to serve." We serve by engaging these spiritual gifts given to us by the Holy Spirit. What are they? Well, just like the hammer and the screwdriver, each have been created for a separate task, so we all have different gifts and abilities. It is important to find and discover what unique gifts we have, that we do not become like a screwdriver trying to hammer in a nail.

- Reference the *Spiritual Gifts - Extended Definitions* document for facilitators.
- Hand out the *Spiritual Gifts Definitions* document to the students.

Look through the *Spiritual Gifts Definitions* handout. Review what spiritual gifts are and then review the list of gifts and discuss. What gifts do the students find interesting? What gifts are confusing or need to be explained?

Remind the students that because we have the gift of the Holy Spirit in us, we actually have all these gifts. The Holy Spirit allows some of these gifts to be strong and prevalent in our lives at different times, so over the course of your life, you might display many different gifts. However, it takes time to see and understand these gifts, so don't be worried if you don't know which ones are important to you right now. As you grow and develop, your gifts will become more apparent.

Discovering our spiritual gifts is a process aimed at understanding how God has designed us and what He expects of us. It is about discovering who we are, and understanding our place within the Body of Christ. It is a tool to support spiritual health, growth, and maturity. Through this process, we can better understand how and where He wants each of us to engage our spiritual gifts in His salvation plan while preparing for Christ's return.

**Student Question #2 What are the differences between spiritual gifts and natural talents or abilities?**

On paper or a whiteboard, draw a simple chart (an example is below). As you write the information into the two columns, discuss the meaning and relationship between the two phrases. Follow up with questions highlighting examples to promote understanding. Example: When did you get your talent to sing? Does your best friend have a talent?

<b>Natural Talents</b>	<b>Spiritual Gifts</b>
Given at physical birth	Given at spiritual birth
God-given to all people	God-given to believers

**Tell the students something like:** Your spiritual gifts are the primary way that you contribute to the Body of Christ. Your talents may or may not be a contributing factor. In order to determine whether or not there is a relationship between a natural talent and a spiritual gift, ask yourself, "Does my natural ability regularly glorify God and edify others?"

- The main point to focus on is that while natural talents are different from spiritual gifts, there is a relationship between them. Your natural talents can enhance your spiritual gifts and vice versa. For example: my natural talent for drawing can be enhanced by the spiritual gifts of Creative Communication.

- Draw another chart and fill in the answers as you discuss with the students.

- **Fruit of the Spirit:** *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.* (Galatians 5:22-23)

- “Doing qualities” - qualities that can be put into actions. So the fruit of the Spirit is **who you are** while you are using your spiritual gifts **to do something**.
  - I can teach with gentleness.
  - I can be encouraging with love.

- Draw another chart and fill in the answers as you discuss with the students.

- Spiritual disciplines will be explored in depth in the “Invest in your spiritual health” semester of the THRIVE youth small group curriculum.

**Student Question #3 What are the differences and similarities between spiritual gifts and fruit of the Spirit?**

<u>Fruit of the Spirit</u>	<u>Spiritual Gifts</u>
Inward characteristics of the believer’s heart	“Doing” qualities
Attitudes	Aptitudes
Result of healthy walk with God	Abilities given by Holy Spirit
Necessary for effective ministry	Necessary for effective ministry

**Tell the students something like:** The fruit of the Spirit develops when we give the Holy Spirit room in us to work. God is also concerned with the attitude in our hearts while we are serving – not just what we are doing.

**Ask the students:** Which wing of the airplane is the most important?

Both are essential for a successful flight. This is like the fruit of the Spirit and spiritual gifts. You need both. What are the gifts without love? What is love without the expression of gifts?

**Example question:** If you’re asked to dry the dishes, but complain the whole time, is that God-pleasing? If you help teach Sunday School, but easily lose patience with the children, are you using your gift of Teaching in the way that God intended?

**Student Question #4 What are the differences between spiritual gifts and spiritual disciplines?**

<u>Spiritual Disciplines</u>	<u>Spiritual Gifts</u>
All should be practiced in a believer’s life	A few will be practiced in a believer’s life
Builds up, strengthens growth in the individual	Builds up, strengthens growth in the Body of Christ
Some of the many ways we receive grace	God-given ways we are to extend grace
Everyone should exercise disciplines	Everyone should express their spiritual gifts

**Tell the students:** The disciplines are significant habits that enable believers to become fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ. Each of us should be developing habits that keep us spiritually and relationally healthy. These disciplines are activities evidenced in some measure in the life of every fully devoted follower of Jesus Christ. Spiritual disciplines strengthen the individual; spiritual gifts strengthen others.

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

### Facilitator Notes:

Wrap up the lesson with why we need to recognize our spiritual gifts and how knowing our spiritual gifts can help us to respond 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 are spiritual gifts?
- Are spiritual gifts the same as natural talents, fruit of the Spirit, or spiritual disciplines?

### I believe...

- Spiritual gifts are gifts from God that are revealed when we engage the Holy Spirit.
- I believe and understand that while my spiritual gifts are different than my natural talents, the fruit of the Spirit, and spiritual disciplines, all four are important for my life as a follower of Christ.

### Point to Ponder....

- Being guided by the Holy Spirit and the apostles, the first Christians helped each other and built up the church. Today we are asked to do the very same thing using our spiritual gifts given to us by the Holy Spirit.

### A Call to Action....

This week, think about what spiritual gifts you have seen being put into action around you. What gifts have you seen your parents display? What gifts have you seen your teachers display?

Write a prayer to thank God for empowering and equipping us to do His work, and to help each other.

### 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: *What are spiritual gifts?*

<b>I wonder...</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ What are spiritual gifts?</li> <li>➤ Are spiritual gifts the same as natural talents, fruit of the Spirit, or spiritual disciplines?</li> </ul>	<b>I believe...</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Spiritual gifts are gifts from God that are revealed when we engage the Holy Spirit.</li> <li>➤ I believe and understand that while my spiritual gifts are different than my natural talents, the fruit of the Spirit, and spiritual disciplines, all four are important for my life as a follower of Christ.</li> </ul>
<b>References:</b> <i>Spiritual Gifts Definitions</i> handout, Romans 12:4-8, 1 Corinthians 12, Galatians 5:22-23, Ephesians 4:11-16	

### 1. What are spiritual gifts?

---



---



---

### 2. What are the differences between spiritual gifts and natural talents or abilities?

---



---



---

### 3. What are the differences and similarities between spiritual gifts and fruit of the Spirit?

---



---



---

### 4. What are the differences between spiritual gifts and spiritual disciplines?

---



---



---

**Point to Ponder:** Being guided by the Holy Spirit and the apostles, the first Christians helped each other and built up the church. Today we are asked to do the very same thing using our spiritual gifts given to us by the Holy Spirit.

**Call to Action:** This week, think about what spiritual gifts you have seen being put into action around you. What gifts have you seen your parents display? What gifts have you seen your teachers display?

Write a prayer to thank God for empowering and equipping us to do His work, and to help each other.

## Respond to the call to serve: *Accepting God's call*

### LESSON AT A GLANCE

#### Facilitator Notes:

- Keep in mind, as you discuss and teach today's lesson: God's purposes for your life are made up of the various things that God calls you to do.

#### I wonder...

- Does God have a specific purpose for my life?
- What if I don't feel I am able to carry out what God has called me to do?
- Does my calling from God affect all parts of my life?

#### I believe...

- God designed and created me with a purpose in mind.
- God has given me spiritual gifts to help me in my calling.
- The gifts that I have through the Holy Spirit are active in every part of my life. I can live out what I am called to do in my church, school, family, and community.

#### Materials:

- *Here I am Lord* - NAC Hymnal 133 (for lyric reference)
- IGNITE Bible
- Chart paper or whiteboard
- *Do Something* music video by Matthew West on YouTube  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b\\_RjndGolX8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b_RjndGolX8)

#### References:

- Bible: Exodus 3-4, Isaiah 6:8, Romans 12:4-8, Ephesians 4:1-16

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

Can you think of a time when you were asked to do something you didn't feel you were able or equipped to handle? How did you respond? This week we will be talking about God's call for us. Join us tomorrow for small group at \_\_\_\_\_.

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

#### Facilitator Notes:

- Please keep the main message intact, but feel free to add local information as necessary.

Dear Parents,  
 This week the "I wonder..." questions are about God's calling, and responding to His call. God has a purpose for all of us and it is up to us to listen for His call. This week, consider having a discussion with your student about what you believe God may be calling you to do. As always, if you have any question about the topic, feel free to contact us.

Your Youth Leaders



### 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.
- YouTube video:  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b\\_RjndGolX8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b_RjndGolX8)

- 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?
- Play the music video, "DO SOMETHING," by Matthew West.
- Have you ever felt the tug to "do something," but didn't know how to do it or what to do?
- Did you ever think that it could be God calling you to "do something" when you felt this tug?

### SET THE STAGE (1 minute)

**Facilitator Notes:**

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

**I wonder...**

- Does God have a specific purpose for my life?
- What if I don't feel I am able to carry out what God has called me to do?
- Does my calling from God affect all parts of my life?

### LESSON (up to 25 minutes)

**Facilitator Notes:**

- Consider writing the student's answers on a whiteboard, and supplement or summarize with the bullet points.

**Student Question #1** What do you think of when you hear the word "call" or "calling"?

- Someone is trying to communicate with you. This could be through a phone call, or calling you from across a room.
- Someone who calls you often wants or needs something from you.
- What do we do when someone calls us? Do we ignore them, or RESPOND?
- God loves us. He calls us for a purpose. We need to listen and respond.

- Review the story of Moses and the burning bush in Exodus 3-4 with the students before asking the question. Read the **SPOTLIGHT: God calls Moses from a bush** on page 71 of your IGNITE Bible together.

**Student Question #2 How did Moses respond to God's call?**

- Moses questioned God four times as to why he was chosen to lead God's people out of Egypt, citing his weaknesses.
- Moses felt inadequate to fulfil God's plan.
- Moses lacked the faith or belief that God would equip him.

**Student Question #3 How can we hear God's calling for us?**

- We are unlikely to come across a burning bush. God calls us through an inner voice; what you feel drawn to could be God calling you. Read the **FLASHPOINT: Knowing and Finding God** on page 72 (especially the LIVE IT section) in your IGNITE Bible together.
- Ask God through prayer to lead you to what His purpose is for you.
- Through reflection and introspection, God speaks to us if we are listening.
- God also works through the people around us; don't discount a conversation you've had with someone where you left feeling called to action.

- Refer to Romans 12:4-8. If you are familiar with any of the spiritual gifts, as mentioned in Romans, they can be discussed further here.

**Student Question #4 How does God equip us for what He calls us to do?**

- God gives us spiritual gifts, a personal style, and passions for fulfilling our callings.
- God will not ask us to do something without equipping us to do it. This is where faith comes in, especially if we feel inadequate.

- Let your students know that throughout the semester there will be opportunities to brainstorm and engage in serving activities.

**Student Question #5 What do you feel your calling could be right now?**

- God calls us to do things in all aspects of our life: church, home, school, and community.
- Discovering your Spiritual Gifts is a great way to find out more about your calling. It's an ongoing discovery because your gifts and calling will continue to change over time.

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

### Facilitator Notes:

- **Isaiah 6:8:** Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying: "Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?" Then I said, "Here am I! Send me."

**Wrap up the lesson with this question: How should I respond to God's calling? Do we respond with a "Here I am, Lord" attitude? Are we open to God's call? Think about the lyrics to our hymn 133, "Here I am, Lord." Are we willing to respond in this way?**

### 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...

- Does God have a specific purpose for my life?
- What if I don't feel I am able to carry out what God has called me to do?
- Does my calling from God affect all parts of my life?

### I believe...

- God designed and created me with a purpose in mind.
- God has given me spiritual gifts to help me in my calling.
- The gifts that I have through the Holy Spirit are active in every part of my life. I can live out what I am called to do in my church, school, family, and community.

### Point to Ponder...

- What gifts might I have, and how will those help me to fulfil God's calling?

### A Call to Action...

- Take some time for prayerful reflection and introspection, and ask God what He is calling you to do. Read the **FLASHPOINT: Communication** on page 74 of your IGNITE Bible. If you feel that God is calling you to do something, think about starting a journal to document the journey. Write down how you feel God is directing or speaking to you. Write down people who know God and know His Word that you can talk to about what you feel called to do.

### 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: *Accepting God's call*

<b>I wonder...</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Does God have a specific purpose for my life?</li> <li>➤ What if I don't feel I am able to carry out what God has called me to do?</li> <li>➤ Does my calling from God affect all parts of my life?</li> </ul>	<b>I believe...</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ God designed and created me with a purpose in mind.</li> <li>➤ God has given me spiritual gifts to help me in my calling.</li> <li>➤ The gifts that I have through the Holy Spirit are active in every part of my life. I can live out what I am called to do in my church, school, family, and community.</li> </ul>
<b>References:</b> Exodus 3-4, Isaiah 6:8, Romans 12:4-8, Ephesians 4:1-16	

1. What do you think of when you hear the word "call" or "calling"?

---



---



---

2. How did Moses respond to God's call?

---



---



---

3. How can we hear God's calling for us?

---



---



---

4. How does God equip us for what He calls us to do?

---



---



---

5. What do you feel your calling could be right now?

---



---



---

**Point to Ponder:** What gifts might I have, and how will those help me to fulfil God's calling?

**Call to Action:** Take some time for prayerful reflection and introspection, and ask God what He is calling you to do. Read the **FLASHPOINT: Communication** on page 74 of your IGNITE Bible. If you feel that God is calling you to do something, think about starting a journal to document the journey. Write down how you feel God is directing or speaking to you. Write down people who know God and know His Word that you can talk to about what you feel called to do.

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

### 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 family. Listed below are suggested ways for the students to serve Christ by serving their families.

The group, or facilitator, can decide whether the entire group decide on a specific way to serve their families at home, 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 family.

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 families. The students are encouraged to add to, or elaborate on, these ideas.

- Commit to pray more with your family, and for your family
- Read the Bible together with your family. Setup a frequency to get together to read and discuss the Bible
- Cook dinner for your family
- Help your family by earning and agreeing to pay a bill this month
- Set family time aside that is free from devices
- Start a game night with your family
- Show forgiveness
- Make a time and space as a family to worship God together during the week
- Encourage someone in your family with a compliment or Bible verse
- Review the list of Spiritual Gifts. Which ones do you recognize in the members of your family? In what ways can you affirm and show appreciation for those gifts in your family?

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 keep the main message intact, but feel free to 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 families.

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....

- Why is it sometimes difficult to serve the people closest to us?

#### A Call to Action...

- This week, serve Christ by serving your family.

## 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 family*

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

---

---

---

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 family?

---

---

---

### A Point to Ponder....

- Why is it sometimes difficult to serve the people closest to us?

### A Call to Action...

- This week, serve Christ by serving your family.

## Respond to the call to serve: *Edifying the Body of Christ*

### LESSON AT A GLANCE

#### Facilitator Notes:

#### I wonder...

- What is the Body of Christ?
- What responsibility do I have in the Body of Christ?
- How can I appreciate the gifts of others in the Body of Christ?

#### I believe...

- The Body of Christ is made up of all those who are baptized, believe in, and profess Christ. (Catechism Q&A question 375)
- I am called to use and develop the gifts that God has given me to edify and build up the Body of Christ.
- Many different gifts are necessary and I can recognize and affirm them in others.

#### Materials:

- IGNITE Bible
- Catechism Q&A
- Catechism
- *The Body of Christ* video on RightNow media  
<https://www.rightnowmedia.org/Content/illustration/97944>

#### References:

- Bible: Romans 12:4-8, 1 Corinthians 12:4-31, Ephesians 1:22-23, Ephesians 2:10, Ephesians 4:11-16
- Catechism Q&A questions 374, 375
- Catechism 6.2.3.1

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

What does it mean to be a part of the Body of Christ and what role do I have as a member of it? Join us tomorrow for small group at \_\_\_\_\_.

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

#### Facilitator Notes:

- Please keep the main message intact, but feel free to add local information as necessary.

Dear Parents,  
 This week the "I Wonder..." questions were about the Body of Christ. What is the Body of Christ? What responsibility do I have in the Body of Christ? How can I appreciate the gifts of others in the Body of Christ? In this lesson, the students learned about what it means to be a part of the Body of Christ, that they've been equipped by God with spiritual gifts, and that they cannot fulfill their calling without the help of others. Ask your student what gifts and passions interest them, and discuss with them what you can do together to edify others. As always, if you have questions about the topic, feel free to contact us.

Your Youth Leaders

## 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.

- 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?
- Watch the *Body of Christ* video:  
<https://www.rightnowmedia.org/Content/illustration/97944>
- In our world today, there are many who are in need.
  - What needs have you witnessed?
  - Who can help those who are in need?
  - What can happen when those who have been called together by Jesus Christ work together?

## SET THE STAGE (1 minute)

### Facilitator Notes:

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

### I wonder...

- What is the Body of Christ?
- What responsibility do I have in the Body of Christ?
- How can I appreciate the gifts of others in the Body of Christ?

## LESSON (up to 25 minutes)

### Facilitator Notes:

- Use the referenced CNAC Q&A questions and Bible references to help answer the student questions.

- Ask the students to describe what they think of when they hear "Body of Christ."
  - Read together 1 Corinthians 12:12-31

### Student Question #1 What does the image of the Body of Christ mean?

- The Body of Christ is an image of the church of Jesus Christ. (Catechism Q&A question 374)
- The image refers to all those who belong to Jesus Christ because they are baptized, believe in Him, and profess Him as their Lord. (Catechism Q&A question 375)
- The image picks up on a common metaphor of the time, in which the state was envisioned as an organic body and the individual as a member of it. (CNAC 6.2.3.1)
- Christ is the head of the body: the church stands in the service of Christ just as the body puts into action the decisions of the head. (Ref. Ephesians 1:22-23)

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The term “edify” is derived from the term edifice: a building or structure. The verb “edify” means to build-up, construct, uplift, or cultivate.</li> <li>Remind the students that their gifts and passions will change throughout their lives.</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>Student Question #2</u> What has God given to all who are a part of the Body of Christ?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Ephesians 2:10 – ...<i>we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.</i></li> <li>➤ Ephesians 4:11-12 – <i>And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ...</i></li> <li>➤ For the edification of the body, God has given individual gifts and services. (Ephesians 4:11-13; Romans 12:6-8; 1 Corinthians 12:4-11)</li> <li>➤ We believe that every member in the Body of Christ is equipped with spiritual gifts to help them live out the purposes that God has called them to.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Student Question #3</u> How can you edify the Body of Christ?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Ephesians 4:13-16 – ...<i>till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head – Christ – from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.</i></li> <li>➤ When each member understands how their gifts edify the congregation, we will see a maturing of faith, renewed appreciation for each other by accepting each one’s strengths and weaknesses, and a growing understanding of our purpose in the church and in our communities.</li> <li>➤ God has given us spiritual gifts for many purposes. However, the most important thing we can do with our spiritual gifts is to bring glory to God. We bring glory to God when we use our gifts to edify others.</li> <li>➤ To engage our spiritual gifts is to live a life of service. It is an intentional and individual calling for which God has equipped us.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Student Question #4</u> How can you appreciate the gifts of all who work along with you as members of the Body of Christ?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ By understanding the image of “the body,” we can see that many different gifts are necessary, and can recognize and affirm them in others.</li> <li>➤ You are called for a specific purpose in the Body of Christ, and in order to fully walk in that purpose you must be aware of the gifts you have been given, develop and grow in them, and learn to appreciate the gifts of others.</li> <li>➤ The members of the body are all different: they may not have the same duty to perform (Romans 12:4); however, they work together and serve one another.</li> <li>➤ The gifts of the individual members of the congregation vary, as do their tasks. However, they are all interconnected and serve one another. Accordingly, the church is an organism in which all are dependent on each other. (CNAC 6.2.3.1)</li> </ul>
---	---

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

### Facilitator Notes:

Wrap up the lesson with what the Body the Christ is, and the role that each one has as part of this relationship.

### 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 on their Confirmation day that they will or have already promised and committed to surrendering themselves in belief in God.

### I wonder...

- What is the Body of Christ?
- What responsibility do I have in the Body of Christ?
- How can I appreciate the gifts of others in the Body of Christ?

### I believe...

- The Body of Christ is made up of all those who are baptized, believe in, and profess Christ. (Catechism Q&A question 375)
- I am called to use and develop the gifts that God has given me to edify and build up the Body of Christ.
- Many different gifts are necessary and I can recognize and affirm them in others.

### Point to Ponder...

- Think about your gifts, passions, and godly purposes as part of the congregation, your family, and community.

### A Call to Action...

This week, read the **FLASHPOINT: Maturity** in your IGNITE Bible on page 1237. Think about the people you have been called to serve with in the congregation, and write two of them a thank you note showing your appreciation and thankfulness that you can serve God together with them.

### 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: *Edifying the Body of Christ*

<b>I wonder...</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ What is the Body of Christ?</li> <li>➤ What responsibility do I have in the Body of Christ?</li> <li>➤ How can I appreciate the gifts of others in the Body of Christ?</li> </ul>	<b>I believe...</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The Body of Christ is made up of all those who are baptized, believe in, and profess Christ. (Catechism Q&amp;A question 375)</li> <li>➤ I am called to use and develop the gifts that God has given me to edify and build up the Body of Christ.</li> <li>➤ Many different gifts are necessary and I can recognize and affirm them in others.</li> </ul>
<b>References:</b> Romans 12:4-8, 1 Corinthians 12:4-31, Ephesians 1:22-23, Ephesians 2:10, Ephesians 4:11-16; Catechism Q&A questions 374, 375; Catechism 6.2.3.1	

### 1. What does the image of the Body of Christ mean?

---



---



---

### 2. What has God given to all who are a part of the Body of Christ?

---



---



---

### 3. How can you edify the Body of Christ?

---



---



---

### 4. How can you appreciate the gifts of all who work along with you as members of the Body of Christ?

---



---



---

**Point to Ponder:** Think about your gifts, passions, and godly purposes as part of the congregation, your family, and community.

**A Call to Action:** This week, read the **FLASHPOINT: Maturity** in your IGNITE Bible on page 1237. Think about the people you have been called to serve with in the congregation, and write two of them a thank you note showing your appreciation and thankfulness that you can serve God together with them.

## Respond to the call to serve: *My mission*

### LESSON AT A GLANCE

#### Facilitator Notes:

- If you haven't already, please review and reference the Mission and Vision course on NDI (about 10 min to complete) <http://ndi.nac-usa.org/nac-usa-development-institute/courses/19-cmv-101-vision-and-mission>

#### I wonder...

- Why does our church have a mission statement?
- Why should the mission statement be important to me?
- How could the mission statement influence my actions?

#### I believe...

- In any organization, a vision statement tells me where we are going, and a mission statement tells me how to get there.
- I believe in the mission of our church, and as a member, I want to invest and contribute to it with my time, possessions, and gifts.
- I believe I should live my life in a way that reflects the gospel of Jesus Christ and the love of God to those around me.

#### Materials:

- Paper
- Writing utensils
- IGNITE Bible

#### References:

- Bible: Matthew 28:18-20, 1 Corinthians 10:31, Ephesians 2:10

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

This week we'll be discussing our church's mission statement. What part of the mission statement stands out to you? Join us tomorrow for small group at \_\_\_\_\_.

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

#### Facilitator Notes:

- Please keep the main message intact, but feel free to add local information as necessary.

Dear Parents,  
 This week the "I Wonder...." questions were about our church's mission statement, why it's important to us, and how it can influence our actions. How does your family live out aspects of the mission statement? How does your congregation live out aspects of the mission statement? Consider talking about these things with your student. You may want to take the discussion further and ask the same questions, but instead, using Jesus' Great Commission as the subject of the questions. 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:

- 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.
- A vision statement defines where you want to be, and it is the most ideal outcome or ending one can imagine.
- A mission statement is a plan of action that you use to work towards your vision statement.
- The students' vision and mission statements should not be longer than a sentence or two.

- 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?
- Give the students 5 minutes to silently brainstorm a personal vision statement for the next year of their life.
  - Make sure to share the definitions of a vision and mission statement in the facilitator notes.
- Once the students have determined their vision, give them another 5 minutes to write down a personal mission statement.
  - This could be actions they can do or qualities they can work to develop to help them reach their vision.
- When the students are done, have them share their vision and mission statements if they feel comfortable.

### SET THE STAGE (1 minute)

#### Facilitator Notes:

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

#### I wonder...

- Why does our church have a mission statement?
- Why should the mission statement be important to me?
- How could the mission statement influence my actions?

### LESSON (up to 25 minutes)

#### Facilitator Notes:

- **Our Vision** is to create a church in which people feel at home and, inspired by the Holy Spirit and their love for God, align their lives to the Gospel of Jesus Christ and

Read the church's vision and mission statements with the students.

#### Student Question #1 Why does our church have a mission statement?

- The students should reflect on the hook activity to help them answer this question.
- Some possible answers are:

<p>thus prepare themselves for His return and eternal life.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Our Mission</b> is reaching out to all people in order to teach them the Gospel of Jesus Christ and to baptize them with water and the Holy Spirit. Providing soul care and cultivating a warm fellowship in which everyone shall experience the love of God and the joy of serving Him and others.</li> <li>• <b>Matthew 28:18-20:</b> And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The church's mission statement helps lead us to the church's vision statement. The mission tells us how to get there.</li> <li>○ The mission helps filter our actions, so that the vision is truly a guide for our lives.</li> <li>○ Our mission is unifying – every New Apostolic Christian is guided by the same aspects that lead us to the same vision for the future.</li> <li>○ Our mission helps us stay aligned to Jesus and His commands.</li> </ul> <p>Discuss with the students that our mission statement is closely tied to the Great Commission that Jesus gave to the disciples.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Jesus provided His disciples with a detailed plan of how they were to continue the work He started. Our mission statement provides the same thing for us.</li> <li>➤ Have a student read the Great Commission in Matthew 28:18-20 aloud.</li> <li>➤ Ask the students: What similarities do you see between the Great Commission and our church's mission statement?             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations" → "Reaching out to all people"</li> <li>○ "Baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit" → "To baptize them with water and the Holy Spirit"</li> <li>○ "Teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you" → "Teach them the gospel of Jesus Christ"</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Exercise: Have the students break off into pairs or small groups, and write each phrase of the church's mission statement in their own words. This will help make the mission easier to understand and remember.</p>
	<p><b><u>Student Question #2</u> Why should the mission statement be important to me?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Our actions need to align to the mission of the church so that we stay focused on the vision.</li> <li>➤ All who believe in Jesus Christ choose to live a life that is set apart. This means we should act and speak differently.</li> <li>➤ Each one of us has a personal role in the mission – we are personally called to help carry out each aspect of the mission.</li> <li>➤ Each one of us has spiritual gifts that God has equipped us with to carry out the mission.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Do you think you don't have the right skills to provide soul care? Do you think you're too shy to reach out to all people with Jesus' gospel? Don't let what you think you lack hold you back from living out the mission.</li> <li>○ God has uniquely gifted you to complete works that He has created for you to do (Ephesians 2:10).</li> <li>○ Try to figure out how your spiritual gifts, your time, and your possessions can help you live out the mission of the church.</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ Living out the mission by using your spiritual gifts helps you edify the Body of Christ.</li> </ul>

- **1 Corinthians 10:31:**  
 Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

**Student Question #3 How could the mission statement influence my actions?**

(You may want to consider breaking the mission statement up into individual statements and answering the question this way.)

- The mission statement is a call to action, not passivity.
- Everything we do and say should bring glory to God. (1 Corinthians 10:31)
- Those around us should be able to see our works of love and hear our words of kindness.
- We can continue to identify and develop our spiritual gifts.
- We want to strive to enliven gospel teaching.
  - In our church, this mainly happens in the divine service. What spiritual gifts do you have that might contribute to the divine service experience? How does your preparation for a divine service help to enliven the gospel in your own heart and mind?
  - Always seek opportunities to share your experience of the gospel with others. Talk about what He does, not what we do.
  - We are expected to be open-hearted and willing to share what we know about Jesus with everyone we meet.
  - We can enliven gospel teaching by continuing the conversation about the sermon in small groups or conversations with others.
- We can encourage others by being present and staying close to them.
  - We can listen to them, care for them, pray with them, and spend time with them. All these things cultivate love.
- We can each work towards achieving a victory everyday over self-centeredness.
- We can worship God in our personal lives and when gathered with others.
- We can work together with others.
  - By working together, we become more unified with each other and in our goals.
- We can help cultivate a warm fellowship so that everyone can feel God's love.

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

### Facilitator Notes:

Wrap up the lesson with linking our mission statement to our desire to respond 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...

- Why does our church have a mission statement?
- Why should the mission statement be important to me?
- How could the mission statement influence my actions?

### I believe...

- In any organization, a vision statement tells me where we are going, and a mission statement tells me how to get there.
- I believe in the mission of our church, and as a member, I want to invest and contribute to it with my time, possessions, and gifts.
- I believe I should live my life in a way that reflects the gospel of Jesus Christ and the love of God to those around me.

### Point to Ponder....

- Why is having a mission statement important? What might happen if our church (or any organization) didn't have a mission statement?

### A Call to Action....

Memorize the church's mission statement, so that you can more easily filter your words and actions through it and determine what contributes to the mission and vision of the church.

### 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: *My mission*

<p><b>I wonder...</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Why does our church have a mission statement?</li> <li>➤ Why should the mission statement be important to me?</li> <li>➤ How could the mission statement influence my actions?</li> </ul>	<p><b>I believe...</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ In any organization, a vision statement tells me where we are going, and a mission statement tells me how to get there.</li> <li>➤ I believe in the mission of our church, and as a member, I want to invest and contribute to it with my time, possessions, and gifts.</li> <li>➤ I believe I should live my life in a way that reflects the gospel of Jesus Christ and the love of God to those around me.</li> </ul>
<p><b>References:</b> Matthew 28:18-20, 1 Corinthians 10:31, Ephesians 2:10</p>	

Our Mission is reaching out to all people in order to teach them the Gospel of Jesus Christ and to baptize them with water and the Holy Spirit. Providing soul care and cultivating a warm fellowship in which everyone shall experience the love of God and the joy of serving Him and others.

### 1. Why does our church have a mission statement?

---



---



---

### 2. Write each phrase of the mission statement in your own words.

---



---



---



---

### 3. Why should the mission statement be important to me?

---



---



---



---

### 4. How could the mission statement influence my actions?

---



---



---



---

**Point to Ponder:** Why is having a mission statement important? What might happen if our church (or any organization) didn't have a mission statement?

**Call to Action:** Memorize the church's mission statement, so that you can more easily filter your words and actions through it and determine what contributes to the mission and vision of the church.

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

### 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 congregation. Listed below are suggested ways for the students to serve Christ by serving their congregation.

The group, or facilitator, can decide whether the entire group decide on a specific way to serve their congregation, 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 congregation.

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 congregation. The students are encouraged to add to, and/or elaborate on, these ideas.

- Make visits during the week to those in the congregation
- Help seniors with technology
- Interview seniors in the congregation. Ask them about experience of faith and feeling God's love
- Organize an activity for the Sunday School
- Do an appreciation activity (cards, ice cream, flowers, dinner, etc.) for a specific group of the congregation (choir, teachers, seniors, parents, etc.)
- Have the youth be the ones to clean the church for a season
- Provide refreshments after service
- Ask the rector or shared leadership team where there may be a specific need in the congregation for the youth to help with
- Be greeters
- Start a prayer list or group

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 keep the main message intact, but feel free to 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 congregation.

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....**

- What would happen if everyone in the congregation decided to just stop serving and contributing to the congregation?

#### **A Call to Action...**

- This week, serve Christ by serving your congregation.



## 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 congregation*

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

---

---

---

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 congregation?

---

---

---

### A Point to Ponder....

- What would happen if everyone in the congregation decided to just stop serving and contributing to the congregation?

### A Call to Action...

- This week, serve Christ by serving your congregation.

## Respond to the call to serve: *A living sacrifice*

### LESSON AT A GLANCE

#### Facilitator Notes:

- This lesson will focus on serving Christ directly. We will cover serving others later in this semester.

#### I wonder...

- What compels me to serve Christ?
- How do my reasons for serving Christ affect my life?

#### I believe...

- I serve and devote myself to Christ out of thankfulness for what He has done and accomplished for me through His sacrifice. I surrender all that I am, have, and do for the sake of His glory.
- I believe that my life should be a profession of Christ, not just in words, but through my actions.

#### Materials:

- Paper
- Writing utensils
- IGNITE Bible
- Catechism Q&A

#### References:

- Catechism Q&A questions 732-736
- Bible: Romans 12:1-8, Ephesians 2:1-10

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

This week our discussion will be on serving Christ. Why do you serve Him? Join us tomorrow for small group at \_\_\_\_\_.

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

#### Facilitator Notes:

- Please keep the main message intact, but feel free to add local information as necessary.

Dear Parents,  
 This week the "I Wonder...." questions were about what compels us to serve Christ, and how serving Him affects our lives. What are your reasons for believing in and serving Christ? Share your answer to this question with your student. And then ask them why they believe in and serve Christ. 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:**

- 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.
- This hook activity helps the students begin to understand what it means to make a sacrifice for something.

- 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 write down everything they spend time on during the week.
- Ask them to cross out the things that are a necessity (showering, eating, sleeping, school, homework, etc.)
- Out of the "free-time" things that are left, which could they commit to sacrificing an hour of each day for the next week?
- What could they do in that hour each day to grow closer in their relationship to Christ? (Read the Bible, talk to their parents about Sunday's service, pray, etc.)

### SET THE STAGE (1 minute)

**Facilitator Notes:**

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

**I wonder...**

- What compels me to serve Christ?
- How do my reasons for serving Christ affect my life?

### LESSON (up to 25 minutes)

**Facilitator Notes:**

Read Catechism Q&A questions 732-733 with the students.

- Discuss with them the difference between sacrifices in the Old Testament and the New Testament.
  - In the Old Testament, the Jewish people had to bring a sacrifice for their sins, and another sacrifice as an offering of worship. Both of these sacrifices were usually offered in the form of killing an animal.
  - When Christ died on the cross, He sacrificed His life for our sin. This is a sacrifice we do not have to make because Christ's sacrifice is *once brought, eternally valid*.
  - However, this still leaves the sacrifice that we offer as worship.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Romans 12:1-2:</b> I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.</li> <li>• On page 1187 of the IGNITE Bible, there is a <b>FLASHPOINT: Self-Harm</b> in regards to Romans 12:1 about self-harm. If you think that this content is appropriate for your students, please read and discuss this together.</li> </ul>	<p>Read Romans 12:1-2 with the student.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ These verses are part of Apostle Paul's letter to the Romans.</li> <li>➤ In them, we learn that as our sacrifice of worship to God, we offer Him our lives.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ We dedicate ourselves to doing His will.</li> <li>○ When we live our lives in a way that is pleasing to God, then we are serving Him and worshipping Him.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b><u>Student Question #1</u> What compels me to serve Christ?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ You can read Ephesians 2:1-10 to begin this discussion.</li> <li>➤ Some possible answers are:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ I serve and devote myself to Christ out of thankfulness for what He has done and accomplished for me through His sacrifice.</li> <li>○ I am also thankful for what Christ is still doing for me today and will do for me in the future. (He is our Advocate, He has promised to come again, He has brought us into His inheritance...)</li> <li>○ I surrender all that I am, have, and do for the sake of His glory and because I love Him.</li> <li>○ My whole life can worship God.</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ If the students are still having a hard time coming up with answers to this question, consider asking them what feelings are inspired in them when they think about Christ: that He came to earth as a baby, that He lived a sinless life according to His Father's will, that He served and cared for many people, that He was betrayed and mocked, and that He was ultimately crucified so that our sin no longer separated us from a relationship with God.</li> </ul>
	<p><b><u>Student Question #2</u> How do my reasons for serving Christ affect my life?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Our lives should be a profession of Christ, not just in words, but also through our actions.</li> <li>➤ In Romans 12:2, Paul wrote that we are to be transformed by the renewing of our minds.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Ask the students what they think this means.</li> <li>○ Ask the students how they can continually "renew their minds."                 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Possible answers are reading the Bible, praying, worshipping, reading devotionals – all these things help us to discover more about God and continually learn about Him and His ways.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ When we are a living sacrifice, our lives will look different from others.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Ask the students how their lives will look when they live a life committed to serving Christ.                 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• They dedicate their time, energy, talent, and resources (money, etc.) to glorifying God. (Catechism Q&amp;A question 736)</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>

Read with the students Romans 12:3-8.

- Part of God's plan is that while we are to live lives that worship Him, align with His will, and bring others to Christ, we cannot do this alone.
- Ask the students why it would be hard to be a living sacrifice if they had to do it all on their own.
  - The students shouldn't be worried that they can't contribute all the spiritual gifts themselves. Focus their answers on how hard it would be when they are doubtful, or weak, or confused, if they had no one to turn to. Discuss the benefits of having a congregation and family supporting you in your journey with Christ.
- Ask the students how their families and their congregations (and possibly their communities) could support them in living a life that is dedicated to serving Christ. Here are a few examples:
  - Reading the Bible with my family helps me to understand and know Christ more.
  - Members in my congregation remind me of Christ's call to serve Him with my life.
- Emphasize that each person has strengths and weaknesses, and so each one contributes to the areas where they have strengths and have been equipped with the spiritual gifts to help them.

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

### Facilitator Notes:

Wrap up the lesson with linking our choice to be a living sacrifice to our desire to respond 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 compels me to serve Christ?
- How do my reasons for serving Christ affect my life?

### I believe...

- I serve and devote myself to Christ out of thankfulness for what He has done and accomplished for me through His sacrifice. I surrender all that I am, have, and do for the sake of His glory.
- I believe that my life should be a profession of Christ, not just in words, but through my actions.

### Point to Ponder...

- Can you be a Christian and make the decision to not be a living sacrifice?

### A Call to Action...

- Refer to the hook activity. Whichever item you chose to give up for the week, replace the time you would spend doing that activity with deepening your relationship with Christ. (You may want to consider continuing your reading of Romans that was begun in the lesson.)

### 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: *A living sacrifice*

<b>I wonder...</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ What compels me to serve Christ?</li> <li>➤ How do my reasons for serving Christ affect my life?</li> </ul>	<b>I believe...</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ I serve and devote myself to Christ out of thankfulness for what He has done and accomplished for me through His sacrifice. I surrender all that I am, have, and do for the sake of His glory.</li> <li>➤ I believe that my life should be a profession of Christ, not just in words, but through my actions.</li> </ul>
<b>References:</b> Catechism Q&A 732-736; Bible: Romans 12:1-8, Ephesians 2:1-10	

1. What are some differences between sacrifices in the Old Testament and sacrifices in the New Testament?

---



---



---

2. What does it mean to be a living sacrifice?

---



---



---

3. What compels me to serve Christ?

---



---



---

4. How do my reasons for serving Christ affect my life?

---



---



---

**Point to Ponder:** Can you be a Christian and make the decision to not be a living sacrifice?

**Call to Action:** Refer to the hook activity. Whichever item you chose to give up for the week, replace the time you would spend doing that activity with deepening your relationship with Christ. (You may want to consider continuing your reading of Romans that was begun in the lesson.)

## Respond to the call to serve: *What is enough?*

### LESSON AT A GLANCE

#### Facilitator Notes:

#### I wonder...

- What does it mean to love God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind?
- What does it mean to love your neighbor as yourself?

#### I believe...

- Fulfilling Jesus' commandments is not easy. God wants my best, deserves my best, and demands my best. I must fully devote my life to Him, and pray for His grace to cover me where I fall short.
- Loving my neighbor means looking for opportunities to serve them, and sometimes that might mean buying and accumulating a little less for myself, so I have more to give.

#### Materials:

- Paper
- Writing utensils
- IGNITE Bible
- *Giving is love* video on YouTube  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C6WXNlUsjNo>

#### References:

- Bible: Malachi 1:6-14, Matthew 16:24-25, Luke 8:4-15, Romans 12:1, 1 Corinthians 13:2-8

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

What do Jesus' two commandments mean to you? Come join us in small group as we dig deeper at \_\_\_\_\_.

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

#### Facilitator Notes:

- Please keep the main message intact, but feel free to add local information as necessary.

Dear Parents,  
 This week the "I Wonder..." questions were about how much is enough to give to God. Discuss with your student what you as a family currently give (to charities, etc.). This doesn't necessarily mean you have to talk about exact dollar amounts. As a family, discuss how you could use your resources to better serve God and others. 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:**

- 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.
- This hook activity helps the students to begin to understand how we should respond to God's love.

- 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?
- Watch the *Giving is love* video:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C6WXNlUsjNo>
- Ask the students what they think of this phrase from the video: *our giving is a reflection of who we are.*

### SET THE STAGE (1 minute)

**Facilitator Notes:**

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

**I wonder...**

- What does it mean to love God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind?
- What does it mean to love your neighbor as yourself?

### LESSON (up to 25 minutes)

**Facilitator Notes:**

**Student Question #1 How do you respond to God's love?**

- We might first think of going to church, putting in an offering, praying to Him, reading Christian books, or going to youth activities. However, if you stripped all that away, at the core of your being – what do you think about God? How do you respond to Him?
- Read the parable of the sower in Luke 8:4-15.
  - This parable is about different people responding to God in different ways. Some responded to the seed of God's word in obedience, and were fruitful. Some were growing for a while, but when things got difficult, they gave up. Some were following, but then they were caught up in cares and material things of the world.
  - After reading the parable of the sower and Jesus' explanation of it, which type of soil do you think best describes you right now? Why?

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ We might live thinking that God doesn't really expect a lot of us, but Scripture tells a different story. There are many warnings about thinking you're committed when you're really not.</li> <li>➤ In the book of Malachi, God clearly addresses the idea of half-hearted worship. The people of Israel were just going through the religious motions. Their activities kind of looks like ours: going to church, offering sacrifices, saying prayers, etc.</li> <li>➤ Read Malachi 1:6-14 together. Try to picture it. What were God's people doing in the passage? How might their actions translate to what church looks like for us today? Pay attention to how God responds.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ According to Malachi 1, what were the Israelites doing wrong in their approach to God? Why was this such a big deal?</li> <li>○ In this passage, how does God respond to their half-hearted sacrifices?</li> <li>○ We don't make animal sacrifices anymore, but we would be wise to heed this warning. In what ways do you think we may be in danger of making the same mistakes that the Israelites made?</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ This story is a shocking wake-up call for anyone who believes that something is better than nothing, or that "checking the boxes" is enough.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Matthew 16:24-25:</b> Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it."</li> </ul>	<p><b>Student Question #2 What does it mean to love God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ God is our Creator. He loves us and died for us, even as we continually sin and turn away from Him. When we look at everything in light of His love, our mediocre response is exactly what God calls it in Malachi 1: evil.</li> <li>➤ Are we really committed to God? Or do we spend our best time and energy on ourselves and then just give Him what's left over at the end of the day?               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Would you say that you are guilty of serving "leftovers" to God? How so, or why not?</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ Jesus is not vague about what He calls us to. Read Matthew 16:24-25.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ What does it mean to take up your cross and follow Jesus? What do you think Matthew thought those words meant when he wrote them down?                   <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We can give many excuses to postpone serving Jesus, because of a particular "cross" or inconvenience in our lives at the moment. This verse is saying that we have to take up that cross and follow Him anyways. There will never be a perfect time to serve the Lord.</li> <li>○ Being as practical as possible, describe some of the ways that taking up your cross and following Jesus might play out in your unique setting.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ Following Jesus isn't about being perfect. God, in His infinite love and grace, forgives and covers us when we fail. It is about living a life of obedience and surrender where we let go of everything and truly offer it to God, not just on Sunday mornings, but anywhere and everywhere we go.</li> </ul>

- You may find it useful to work through each sentence of the quote with the students to be sure they understand it.
- **Romans 12:1:** I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.
- If you would like more background information on the quote, please see the article at the end of this lesson.

**Student Question #3 What does it mean to love your neighbor as yourself?**

Read the following quote to the students and discuss:

- *We're not giving what we're called to give, unless that giving affects how we live – affects what we put on our plate and where we make our home and hang our hat and what kind of threads we've got to have on our back. "Surplus giving" is the leftover you can afford to give; "sacrificial giving" is the love gift that changes how you live – because the love of Christ has changed you. God doesn't want your leftovers. God wants...your first-overs, because He is your first love. (Ann Voskamp)*
  - How could we give so that it affects our lives?
  - What are we saying to God with our sacrifices?
  - What are we saying to others that we serve and give to?
  - How do the ideas in this quote relate to Romans 12:1, which we discussed in our last lesson?
- When we give and serve others with our best, with love, we are saying to them, "You are valuable. You are worthy of the best."

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

**Facilitator Notes:**

**Wrap up the lesson with challenging the students to really think about what a life committed to Christ looks like.**

**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 does it mean to love God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind?
- What does it mean to love your neighbor as yourself?

**I believe...**

- Fulfilling Jesus' commandments is not easy. God wants my best, deserves my best, and demands my best. I must fully devote my life to Him, and pray for His grace to cover me where I fall short.
- Loving my neighbor means looking for opportunities to serve them, and sometimes that might mean buying and accumulating a little less for myself, so I have more to give.

**Point to Ponder...**

- Is there such a thing as "easy Christianity"?

**A Call to Action...**

- Take a few moments alone with God to think earnestly, and journal about the following questions: *Am I willing to say to God that He can have whatever He wants? Do I believe that wholehearted commitment to Him is more important than any other thing or person in my life? Do I believe that nothing I do in this life will ever matter unless it is about loving God and loving the people He has made?*

### 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: *What is enough?*

<b>I wonder...</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ What does it mean to love God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind?</li> <li>➤ What does it mean to love your neighbor as yourself?</li> </ul>	<b>I believe...</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Fulfilling Jesus' commandments is not easy. God wants my best, deserves my best, and demands my best. I must fully devote my life to Him, and pray for His grace to cover me where I fall short.</li> <li>➤ Loving my neighbor means looking for opportunities to serve them, and sometimes that might mean buying and accumulating a little less for myself, so I have more to give.</li> </ul>
<b>References:</b> Malachi 1:6-14, Matthew 16:24-25, Luke 8:4-15, Romans 12:1, 1 Corinthians 13:2-8	

### 1. How do you respond to God's love?

---

---

---

---

---

### 2. What does it mean to love God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind?

---

---

---

---

---

---

### 3. What does it mean to love your neighbor as yourself?

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Point to Ponder:** Is there such a thing as "easy Christianity"?

**Call to Action:** Take a few moments alone with God to think earnestly, and journal about the following questions: *Am I willing to say to God that He can have whatever He wants? Do I believe that wholehearted commitment to Him is more important than any other thing or person in my life? Do I believe that nothing I do in this life will ever matter unless it is about loving God and loving the people He has made?*



## DEAR WORLD: LET'S STOP GIVING OUR CRAP TO THE POOR

I was getting ready to leave for a trip to Kenya a couple of years ago, when a church emailed and asked if Mercy House had any specific needs. I quickly responded and told them I wanted to give Maureen, our Kenyan Director, an iPhone, so we could communicate during (almost weekly) power outages. I told them if they would buy one instead, we could use the money for other needed items.

On the church's Facebook feed a few days later, I saw an appeal that said something like, "We want to support a ministry with a used iPhone. If you have an old one you can donate, please let us know." I was given an older iPhone a week later. On the ground in Kenya, I realized it wouldn't hold a charge for more than 10 minutes. The phone was junk.

So, when I left Kenya, I gave Maureen my used one that worked.

The church contacted me after the trip and asked how Maureen liked her new phone? I told them it was useless and said, "Don't worry about it. I gave her mine." "Oh, we feel badly, please let us replace your phone! We want to buy you a brand new one, an upgrade. You deserve it," I told them I used my husband's upgrade and already had a replacement phone. "Ok. Instead we would like to write you a \$500 check for the inconvenience."

"Give it to Maureen," I said.

And they did. While the church tried to make it right, I was bothered by the fact they were more than willing to buy me a new phone I didn't need. I have noticed this mentality permeates the Church as a whole: *The poor will be happy with our leftovers. They don't know any better. They live in Africa or Honduras, they don't need the latest technology or the best brands like we do. They will appreciate anything we give because something is more than nothing.*

**Why do we give others – often those in service to the poor or the poor themselves – something we wouldn't keep or give ourselves?**

Somehow collecting clothes for immigrants has become the perfect opportunity to get rid of stuff we don't want and gathering baby items for new moms is the perfect excuse to toss out stained and worn clothing we wouldn't dare use again. I've packed suitcases with beautiful donations, but mostly I've pilfered through piles of junk donated in the name of Jesus.

**It's time to stop giving our crap to the poor.**

There's nothing wrong with used or secondhand. It's often my first and favorite choice. Many organizations and ministries depend on used gifts. But if we give used, it should be our best. I'm not saying when we clean out older clothes or toys or things we don't use any longer and donate them – that this is wrong. I am saying if we give it away, it should be something we would use ourselves.

The poor may not have wealth, but they have dignity. I've met people without electricity or running water who swept their dirt floors daily, pressed their clothes neatly, walked miles to work

on muddy roads, dodging sewage and never had a speck of dirt on them. They value their own worth, we should too.

I'll never forget meeting a woman in Africa who supported her large family by reselling used clothes from America. But when she held up clothes to show me what was for sale – clothes Americans had donated in clothing drives – they were tattered and stained. I was embarrassed. Her *best* depended on our *worst*.

Just because our donation feels like we are helping, in reality, we could be hurting. Bales of used clothes are sold to African countries for resale and they end up flooding the market and often put local textile businesses and seamstresses out of business.

It's time to think about not only what we give and how we give it, but also why we give it. Just because it makes us feel better (and cleans out our garage at the same time), doesn't mean it's the best for those in need. Perhaps we should look a little deeper into our hearts and wallets when we can say, I don't have money to give to the poor, but I have a lot of stuff. Maybe we need to buy less stuff, so we have more to give?

*"We're not giving what we're called to give, unless that giving affects how we live – affects what we put on our plate and where we make our home and hang our hat and what kind of threads we've got to have on our back. Surplus Giving is the leftover you can afford to give; Sacrificial Giving is the love gift that changes how you live – because the love of Christ has changed you. God doesn't want your leftovers. God wants your love overtures, your first-overs, because He is your first love." - Ann Voskamp*

There have been times over the years, I've gasped and grinned at the beautiful items I've sorted and packed for the impoverished. When we give our best, we are living our best. We are saying with our donation, *you are valuable*. We are whispering with our gift, *you are worthy of the best*. We have the opportunity to speak self-worth when we give generously.

**It's a promise for them. It's a promise for us.**

*"Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will repay him for his deed." - Proverbs 19:17*

The next time we have the opportunity to share what we have with someone who is in need. Let's give from the pile we want to keep, not from the one we want to throw out.

- by Kristen / October 13, 2014 / [www.wearethatfamily.com](http://www.wearethatfamily.com)

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

### LESSON AT A GLANCE

<b>Facilitator Notes:</b>	<p><b>I wonder...</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Should I feel compelled to serve others?</li> <li>➤ What does Jesus teach me about serving others?</li> <li>➤ Who is my neighbor?</li> </ul> <p><b>I believe...</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ I show my love for Jesus and fulfill His commandments by serving those around me.</li> <li>➤ Jesus teaches me that being a Christian means a life of service.</li> <li>➤ My neighbor can be anyone with whom we come into contact. (Catechism Q&amp;A question 287)</li> </ul> <p><b>Materials:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ IGNITE Bible</li> <li>➤ Catechism Q&amp;A</li> <li>➤ "Definition of a trader" video  <a href="https://www.rightnowmedia.org/Content/illustration/98580">https://www.rightnowmedia.org/Content/illustration/98580</a></li> </ul> <p><b>References:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Catechism Q&amp;A questions 286-290</li> <li>➤ 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</li> </ul>
---------------------------	--

### 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>
--	--

### 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 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, <a href="https://www.rightnowmedia.org/Content/illustration/98580">https://www.rightnowmedia.org/Content/illustration/98580</a>.</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>
---	---

### 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.
- My neighbor can be anyone with whom we come into contact. (Catechism Q&A question 287)

### **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...**

---

---

---

---


---

---

---



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

<b>I wonder...</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Should I feel compelled to serve others?</li> <li>➤ What does Jesus teach me about serving others?</li> <li>➤ Who is my neighbor?</li> </ul>	<b>I believe...</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ I show my love for Jesus and fulfill His commandments by serving those around me.</li> <li>➤ Jesus teaches me that being a Christian means a life of service.</li> <li>➤ My neighbor can be anyone with whom we come into contact. (Catechism Q&amp;A question 287)</li> </ul>
<b>References:</b> 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 ;  Catechism Q&A questions 286-290	

**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.

## Respond to the call to serve: *Broken relationships*

### LESSON AT A GLANCE

#### Facilitator Notes:

The content for this lesson comes from the materials that are used for NAC USA charity workshops, titled *Helping without Hurting*.

This can be a complicated topic and while we don't want to overwhelm you, as the facilitator, we did want to provide additional resources to equip you for this discussion if you desire more background information. You can find supporting material in these two video clips:

#### Video 1: Reconsider the meaning of poverty

<https://www.chalmers.org/media/entry/small-group-experience-unit-1>

#### Video 2: Seeing God at work

<https://www.chalmers.org/media/entry/small-group-experience-unit-2>

#### I wonder...

- What is my relationship to the world around me?
- Is my relationship to the world around me functioning the way that God intends?
- Why is it important for me to understand broken relationships when I serve others?

#### I believe...

- God created me with 4 relationships: my relationship to God, to myself, to others, and to creation.
- When Adam and Eve sinned, these 4 relationships were broken. And because we are all broken, the systems (economic, social, political, and religious) we've created are also broken.
- I believe that when I serve others, I'm walking alongside them as we both work to reconcile our broken relationships with God and the world around us.

#### Materials:

- Paper
- Writing utensils
- IGNITE Bible

#### References:

- Bible: Genesis 1:27-29, Genesis 3:7-19, Matthew 22:37-40

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

No man is an island. To learn more, join us at \_\_\_\_\_ for small group.

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

#### Facilitator Notes:

- Please keep the main message intact, but feel free to add local information as necessary.

Dear Parents,  
 This week the "I Wonder...." questions focus on how God created us with 4 relationships: a relationship with Him, with ourselves, with each other, and with the creation. But after the fall of Adam and Eve, those relationships were broken. Your student will be looking at how these four relationship are broken in their lives in their "Call to Action." Have a discussion with them about how you experience these broken relationships. 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:

- 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.
- This hook activity helps the students to begin to understand how they relate to the world around them and people in different circumstances.

- 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?

Ask the students how they would define poverty. Give them a few minutes to write down their answers.

- Watch the following video: <https://chalmers.org/resources/videos/the-5-causes-of-poverty/>
  - Discuss how the video defined poverty.
  - How were their answers different from the students' answers? What words and differences did they find most surprising?

## SET THE STAGE (1 minute)

### Facilitator Notes:

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

### I wonder...

- What is my relationship to the world around me?
- Is my relationship to the world around me functioning the way that God intends?
- Why is it important for me to understand broken relationships when I serve others?

## LESSON (up to 25 minutes)

### Facilitator Notes:

The relationships found in the verses:

- **Our relationship with God:** love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.

### Student Question #1 What is my relationship to the world around me?

- Our God is a relational God. He has existed in relationship as the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit since the beginning. And He created us to also be relational.
  - What did you think about the "no man is an island" quote? What does that mean to you?
- Read the following verses together: Genesis 1:27-29 and Matthew 22:37-40. What are the relationships that you find in these verses?
  - **Genesis 1:27** So God created man in His own image...
  - **Genesis 1:28-29** God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Our relationship with self:</b> so God created man in His own image.</li> <li>• <b>Our relationship with others:</b> love your neighbor as yourself.</li> <li>• <b>Our relationship with creation:</b> fill the earth and subdue it, rule over...</li> </ul>	<p><i>sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground." Then God said, "I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Matthew 22:37-40</b> <i>Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself. All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."</i></li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ When we experience these 4 relationships in the way that God intended them, we experience humanness in the way that God intended. By humanness, we mean that we truly experience humanity in the way that God desires – the 4 relationships are perfectly cohesive.</li> <li>➤ Read the <b>WHITE HOT TOPIC: Family Resemblance</b> on page 4 of your IGNITE Bible. Talk about what it means to be made in the image of God.</li> </ul>
<p>How the 4 relationships were broken:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Relationship with God:</b> from intimacy to fear</li> <li>• <b>Relationship with self:</b> from dignity to shame</li> <li>• <b>Relationship with others:</b> from community to conflict</li> <li>• <b>Relationship with creation:</b> joyful work to toilsome labor</li> <li>• <b>Broken systems:</b> If you have older students, it might be interesting to have them dive into this idea of broken systems, but only if you are comfortable facilitating that discussion. Usually as we grow up, if we start to lean towards the conservative side, we believe that people find themselves in situations because of personal sin. If we start to lean more liberally, we say it's because of broken systems. But what we've talked about today is that it's both. We're broken and our systems are broken.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Student Question #2</b> <i>Is my relationship to the world around me functioning the way that God intends?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ When Adam and Eve sinned, these 4 relationships broke.</li> <li>➤ Read this excerpt from Genesis 3:7-19. How are the relationships broken?             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves...But the Lord God called to the man, "Where are you?" He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid." ...The man said, "The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it." To Adam he said, "Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat food from it all the days of your life. It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field.</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ Because we are broken and our relationships are broken, then the systems that we've created are also broken – economic, social, political, and religious systems.</li> <li>➤ Refer back to your discussion on poverty at the beginning of the lesson.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ How do you think these broken relationships affect the definition of poverty given in the video?</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

**Student Question #3** Why is it important for me to understand broken relationships when I serve others?

- Read the **FLASHPOINT: Relationships** on page 8 of your IGNITE Bible. Discuss the questions together.

**Student Question #4** In what ways could we reconcile the broken relationships in our lives? In the lives of others?

- So often we assume that those we serve, or those that are in need, are the ones that are broken, and we think we are there to “fix” them.
- But truthfully, we are all broken, and we need to walk humbly with the people we serve while Jesus is reconciling our relationships and healing each one of us.
  - Think about a time when you have needed help. How did you feel about the help you received? Did you feel looked down on or shameful? Or did you feel valued and looked at equally?
  - How could you help others without making them feel shameful?
- Since Jesus is the reconciler of our relationships, this gives us opportunities to talk about Him when we’re serving others.
  - We should never force our beliefs on others, but we can share with them our motivation for serving and loving those around us: because Jesus loves us! Even if they don’t believe it, we see them as made in the image of God, and He loves and wants all of us.
  - Brainstorm ways that you could share this message with someone who doesn’t believe in God, or maybe does, but doesn’t feel loved by Him.

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

### Facilitator Notes:

#### ➤ For the Call to Action:

While we are all broken, the ways in which we are broken are different from those that are in poverty.

- **God:** those in poverty might live in fear of God or don't believe He exists, while our mainstream society denies God's existence and focuses on materialism.
- **Self:** those in poverty often have low self-esteem and feel shame, while those in mainstream society have god-complexes and think they have the answer to everything.
- **Others:** those in poverty might be exploited or abused by others, while mainstream society thrives on self-centeredness.
- **Creation:** those in poverty might feel a loss of purpose, or are unable to make use of the resources in their environment, while mainstream society rewards workaholics and materialism.

Wrap up the lesson with asking the students to think about these relationships in all their interactions.

### 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 is my relationship to the world around me?
- Is my relationship to the world around me functioning the way that God intends?
- Why is it important for me to understand broken relationships when I serve others?

### I believe...

- God created me with 4 relationships: my relationship to God, to myself, to others, and to creation.
- When Adam and Eve sinned, these 4 relationships were broken. And because we are all broken, the systems (economic, social, political, and religious) we've created are also broken.
- I believe that when I serve others, I'm walking alongside them as we both work to reconcile our broken relationships with God and the world around us.

### Point to Ponder...

- Take a few minutes to think of the people closest to you (parents, siblings, friends, teachers, etc.). All of those people are also broken. Do you believe that?

### A Call to Action...

- Whether we consider ourselves to be in poverty or not, we still experience the same 4 broken relationships: our relationship with God, with self, with others, and with creation. Write down how you think these relationships in your life are broken.

### 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: *Broken relationships*

<p><b>I wonder...</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ What is my relationship to the world around me?</li> <li>➤ Is my relationship to the world around me functioning the way that God intends?</li> <li>➤ Why is it important for me to understand broken relationships when I serve others?</li> </ul>	<p><b>I believe...</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ God created me with 4 relationships: my relationship to God, to myself, to others, and to creation.</li> <li>➤ When Adam and Eve sinned, these 4 relationships were broken. And because we are all broken, the systems (economic, social, political, and religious) we've created are also broken.</li> <li>➤ I believe that when I serve others, I'm walking alongside them as we both work to reconcile our broken relationships with God and the world around us.</li> </ul>
<p><b>References:</b> Genesis 1:27-29, Genesis 3:7-19, Matthew 22:37-40,</p>	

### 1. What is my relationship to the world around me?

---



---



---

### 2. Is my relationship to the world around me functioning the way that God intends?

---



---



---

### 3. Why is it important for me to understand broken relationships when I serve others?

---



---



---

### 4. In what ways could we reconcile the broken relationships in our lives? In the lives of others?

---



---



---

**Point to Ponder:** Take a few minutes to think of the people closest to you (parents, siblings, friends, teachers, etc.). All of those people are also broken. Do you believe that?

**Call to Action:** Whether we consider ourselves to be in poverty or not, we still experience the same 4 broken relationships: our relationship with God, with self, with others, and with creation. Write down how you think these relationships in your life are broken.



## 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>
---------------------------	---

### 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>
---	---

## 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?

---

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: *Recognizing and responding*

<b>I wonder...</b> <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>	<b>I believe...</b> <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>
<b>References:</b> Matthew 25:35-40, Luke 12:22-34, Ephesians 2:10	

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

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

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

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

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

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**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.

## 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)

<b>Facilitator Notes:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Please feel free to customize and add local information as necessary.</li> </ul>	<p>Dear Parents,</p> <p>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.</p> <p>As always, if you have questions about the topic, please feel free to contact us.</p> <p>Your Youth Leaders</p>
---	--

### SUNDAY SERMON REFLECTIONS (10 minutes)

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

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

<b>Facilitator Notes:</b>	<p><b>Wrap up the lesson with the "R" message from THRIVE: Respond to the call to serve by:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discovering and developing your spiritual gifts and engaging in the congregation by using those gifts. (Ephesians 4:11-16)</li> <li>Edifying the Body of Christ by acknowledging and appreciating the gifts of others. (1 Corinthians 12:4-27)</li> <li>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)</li> <li>Directly serving Jesus Christ (Romans 14:17-19)</li> </ul> <p><b>A Point to Ponder....</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ 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.</li> </ul> <p><b>A Call to Action...</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ This week, serve Christ by serving your community.</li> </ul>
---------------------------	---



## 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....

- 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.