

BREAKOUT 1 – Doing Good in Your Community

Key Verse: Matthew 5:14-16 (NKJV) – “You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

Why Serving the Community Matters

Main Points:

- **The community is your mission field.**
 - Serving doesn't only happen inside the church walls. Every neighborhood, school, workplace, and grocery store is a place where God can use you.
 - Jesus often ministered in homes, on the streets, in marketplaces, not just in the synagogue. He met people where they were.
 - When we serve those around us, we reflect the hands and feet of Christ to a watching world.
 - Look at your daily routines differently - ask God to open your eyes to needs right in front of you.
 - When seeking where to live or go to school, ask God where He wants you to be in order for Him to use you most effectively for His purposes.
- **Good works point people to Jesus.**
 - Our actions are a living testimony. When we help others, people see the love of Christ in action.
 - Serving others creates opportunities for spiritual conversations that might never happen otherwise.
 - Jesus said to let our good works shine so others glorify God, not us. The goal is not recognition but revelation.
 - Examples: volunteering, providing meals, helping neighbors, or mentoring youth, all of these can be bridges to Christ.
- **You don't have to be perfect - just present and willing.**
 - God doesn't necessarily use the most talented, He utilizes those who are will and available. God doesn't call the equipped, He equips the called.
 - Moses doubted his speech, David was young, the disciples were ordinary men, yet God used them mightily.
 - Don't let fear, busyness, or insecurity keep you from stepping out.
 - Even small acts of kindness, listening, praying, showing up, can have a big kingdom impact.
 - Sometimes the most powerful way to serve is simply being present with someone in their moment of need. You may be the only exposure to God's love that they have.

Discussion and Real-Life Application

- How can we identify real needs around us?
- What's one way I can serve someone this week?
- Invite students to pray for their schools, neighborhoods, and cities.
- Challenge: Pick one way to “shine light” in your community this week.



Activity Ideas: Doing Good in Your Community

Service Challenge

Setup: Split into teams and give each team a mission to do good for the local community. Some ideas:

Kindness Rocks: Paint rocks with uplifting messages and leave them in parks or public places.

Blessing Bags: Pack small care bags (snacks, hygiene items, socks) for the homeless.

Encouragement Walk: Write and distribute thank-you cards to local service workers (firefighters, police, grocery store workers, etc.).

Acts of Kindness Bingo: Give teams a bingo card with challenges (e.g., hold the door for a stranger, say thank you to a store worker, compliment someone).

Bible Tie-In: Luke 10:25-37 (The Good Samaritan), Matthew 25:35-40 (Serving the least of these).

Debrief: Have each team share their experiences. How did people react? What did this teach them about being intentional in doing good?

Community Prayer Walk

Setup: Walk through a local neighborhood or park in small groups, praying for different needs (schools, families, businesses, government, those struggling).

Optional: Bring sticky notes to leave anonymous encouraging messages on public bulletin boards or in local businesses.

Bible Tie-In: Colossians 4:5 (Making the most of every opportunity), James 2:14-17 (Faith in action).

Debrief: Discuss: How does prayer open our eyes to needs in the community?

BREAKOUT 2 – Doing Good in Your Congregation

Key Verse: 1 Corinthians 12:27 (NKJV) – “Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually.”

Main Points:

- **Every believer has a role in the church – even students**
 - God doesn't wait until you're older to start using you - He can use you right now, at any age.
 - 1 Timothy 4:12 says, “Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example...”
 - Students bring fresh energy, creativity, and passion that can bless the whole church.
 - Whether it's greeting, tech, worship, kids ministry, or behind-the-scenes work, there's a place for everyone.
 - When young people serve, they show others that faith is real and active in every generation.
- **Your gifts matter**
 - God has given every believer unique talents and spiritual gifts—none are too small or unimportant.
 - 1 Corinthians 12 reminds us that the body of Christ has many parts, and all are needed to function well.
 - You might not preach or sing, but you could be great at organizing, encouraging, fixing things, or praying for others.
 - Sometimes we discover our gifts by serving - we don't have to wait until we have it all figured out.
 - When you use your gifts for God, you find joy, purpose, and confidence in how He made you.
- **Serving builds unity and helps the whole church grow**
 - When everyone pitches in, it creates a sense of family, teamwork, and shared purpose.
 - Serving takes the focus off ourselves and helps us see the bigger picture of what God is doing.
 - As we serve together, we learn to love and appreciate people who are different from us.
 - Ephesians 4:16 says the church grows when “each part does its work.” Growth isn't just about numbers - it's about maturity and love.
 - A serving church becomes a healthy, vibrant community where people feel connected and cared for.

Discussion and Real-Life Application

- What is one way you've helped in church before?
- What's one area you'd like to try serving in?
- Give out “Serve Cards” where students write out one way they'll serve this month.
- Close with a prayer asking God to grow a servant heart in each youth.

Activity Ideas: Doing Good in Your Congregation

Church Encouragement Project

Setup: Have youth write letters, create video messages, or record short audio prayers for:

- church leaders (ministers, worship team, youth leaders, Sunday School teachers, RI teachers, choir directors, etc.),
- elderly members or homebound church members,
- children in the congregation, etc.

Bible Tie-In: Romans 12:9-13 (Serving the Lord's people), 1 John 3:16-18 (Loving in action).

Debrief: How does encouraging those who serve strengthen the church family?

Youth Service

Setup: Plan a youth-led divine service where the youth plan music, decorate the altar, set up the altar, are greeters and ushers, do the Bible reading, etc.

Bible Tie-In: Galatians 6:10 (Doing good to the family of believers), Colossians 3:23-24 (Working for the Lord).

Debrief: Reflect: How did it feel to serve the congregation? How can we stay involved after the retreat?

BREAKOUT 3 – Doing Good for Your Fellow Youth

Key Verse: John 13:34-35 (NKJV) – “By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”

Main Points:

- **Our youth group is a spiritual family**
 - We're not just a group that meets once a week, or occasionally a few times a year, we're the family of Christ, connected by our faith.
 - Just like in a family, we're meant to support, encourage, and care for one another.
 - When we show up for each other, in prayer, conversation, or just being present—it builds deep, lasting relationships.
 - Everyone has a place and purpose here, no one should feel like an outsider in their own spiritual home.
 - Like any family, there might be disagreements or challenges, but we grow stronger by working through them together.
- **We reflect Jesus by how we treat each other**
 - Jesus said people will know we're His disciples by our love for one another (John 13:35).
 - How we talk to and about each other, online and in person, reflect grace, kindness, and respect.
 - Forgiveness, patience, and humility are ways we model Christ's character in our relationships.
 - Choosing to include, rather than exclude, shows others what the love of God looks like in real life.
 - Even small things, like listening well, giving encouragement, or standing up for someone, can show Jesus to others.
- **Serving one another creates a healthy, and welcome group – “A church in which everyone feels at home...”**
 - When everyone looks for ways to help and support each other, it makes the group stronger and more united.
 - Helping with setup, welcoming new people, or checking in on someone who's struggling are all simple ways to serve.
 - A group that serves together grows together—spiritually and relationally.
 - New students and visitors are more likely to feel at home when they see others caring for each other.
 - Serving keeps the focus off of ourselves and puts it on loving others the way Jesus did.

Discussion and Real-Life Application

- What makes a youth group feel safe and supportive?
- Have you ever felt left out or encouraged here?
- Pray for unity and love within the youth group.
- Encourage students to be intentional about looking out for others.

Activity Ideas: Doing Good for Your Fellow Youth

These ideas could be used to brainstorm more ideas and have the students take them back to their youth groups, and/or implemented during the youth retreat weekend.

Encouragement Circle

Setup: Have everyone sit in a circle. Each person takes a turn sitting in the “hot seat” while others write or verbally share encouraging words about them.

Goal: Build each other up and reinforce the importance of strengthening your fellow youth.

Bible Tie-In: Acts 2:42-47 (Early Church), Hebrews 10:24-25 (Encouraging one another).

Debrief: Ask, “How did it feel to receive encouragement?” and “How can we continue this outside the retreat?”

Encouragement Wall

Set up a wall/poster where students write affirming notes to each other anonymously.

Secret Servant

Setup: At the beginning of the retreat, each person draws a name (in secret) of someone in the group. Throughout the retreat, they are challenged to do small acts of kindness (helping with chores, leaving an encouraging note, praying for them).

Reveal: On the last day, have each person guess who their Secret Servant was.

Bible Tie-In: Galatians 6:10 (Do good to the family of believers), 1 John 3:18 (Love through actions).

Debrief: Discuss how acts of kindness, even small ones, strengthen the church family.