



Week 1
4.24.22

LEADER PREP

MAIN POINT

Do something you don't have to do.

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 25:35-40 NIV

GOAL OF SMALL GROUP

To encourage students to see the benefits of serving others and help them take a step to start serving.

THINK ABOUT THIS

Middle schoolers tend to focus on what they see, know, or experience. While students may talk about needs they see around them (a GREAT place to start!), it's important for you as the small group leader to make sure the conversation steers away from naming names or talking in detail about needs your students know about in their community, school, or even right in your small group. We want to be sensitive to protect the kids who might be experiencing those very needs. Be sure to set this expectation up from the start of the conversation so your middle schoolers know the framework you want them to use as they're sharing. And be careful with the examples you give yourself. You know the students in your group better than anyone, so you want to be sure your examples in conversation don't embarrass or call anybody out who might be experiencing the needs you're talking about.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

THE CHECK IN

- How was everyone's week? Share Highs & Lows.
- Someone recap the main point of the message in your own words.
- What's one thing you love about serving others?
- What's one thing you don't enjoy about serving others?

THE WORD

- READ Matthew 25:35-40 NIV.
- What different needs were met in these verses? (HINT: verses 35-36)
 - BONUS VISUAL: Write each NEED on its own post-it note, and put it out where the whole group can see it.
- How was each need met?
 - BONUS VISUAL: Write a matching post-it for HOW each need was met.
- When we meet the needs of others, who are we serving in addition to them? (HINT: verse 40)
- Why do you think that is?

APPLICATION

- What are other needs you know of: in your school, neighborhood, here at church, around the world?
 - BONUS VISUAL: Write each NEED on its own post-it note.
- What are different ways WE can do something to help meet these needs?
 - BONUS VISUAL: Write a matching post-it for HOW each need was met.
- As a group, pick one way you can join together in Jesus' movement of serving and serve others this week. (BONUS: Share this with your campus staff, maybe even send them a pic of your group doing it together!)

PRAY

We are going to close in prayer.
Anyone have any prayer requests?

MATTHEW 25:35-40 NIV

"35 For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, 36 I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.' 37 "Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? 38 When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? 39 When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?' 40 "The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'

NOTES