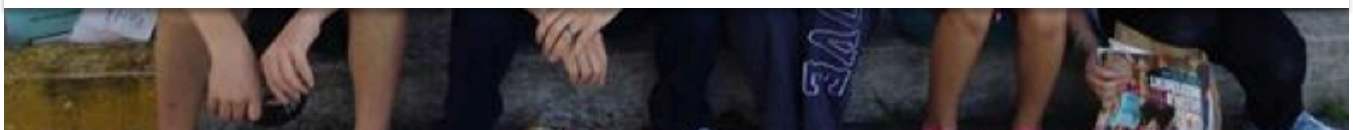




Content for Continuing the Conversation After the Mission Trip



***“I have set you an example that you should do
as I have done for you.” –John 13:15***



DEMO: LIVE LIKE JESUS

This summer, teenagers from across the country spent a week hearing about Jesus set the example for how to live well and honor God. Jesus was the ultimate demonstration of service, humility, sacrifice and compassion.

The messages that were part of the YouthWorks' DEMO 2013 summer theme are applicable outside the summer mission trip context, and can be used to help your teenagers continue to think about how they can follow Jesus with both their hearts and their actions.

BRINGING IT

Our hope is that the conversations started during the mission trip will extend back home into the lives of teenagers. What better way to do that than to bring up those same conversations within their everyday context?! In an effort to empower you in continuing these conversations, we're giving you some basic content we used this summer for you to shift and build on as you see fit.

We invite you to extend the impact and value of your YouthWorks trip by bringing the DEMO: LIVE LIKE JESUS theme into your Sunday school, youth group, Bible study or one-on-one settings. Whether the theme is review for those who attended a YouthWorks trip or brand new for those who didn't, we hope the conversations they have around these ideas will help students think more fully about how they can live like Jesus in their everyday context.

A LITTLE BIT ABOUT THIS

Our intent with this guide is to provide a starting point for you to further develop and fit to your own ministry context and audience. Because we know that your context for ministry is different than the next youth leader's, we've given you the broad strokes of this summer's theme. We're including some processing questions, a few ideas, and some additional Scripture. (See the context of how this "Additional Scripture" was used in your Devo Journal.) If you have a Devo Journal from your YouthWorks trip, we highly recommend you use that material, including the "Going Deeper" section in the back, to supplement this guide. Each day's theme from the YouthWorks schedule, Sunday–Thursday, is represented in the following pages.

A FEW IDEAS & TIPS FOR USING THIS

- Don't feel the need to use everything here. Instead, use this guide as a starting point and an idea bank as you plan to use the material as you see fit.
- Don't *only* use what's here. Add your own stories, analogies, Scripture passages and activities to make these themes come alive in a new way!
- Empower teenagers who went on the trip to lead all or part of each theme. You might close discussion on each theme by having a teenager who went on the YouthWorks trip share how that daily theme impacted them.
- Spread it out over five weeks, using one theme each week for the center of your discussion or lesson.
- OR fit everything into one meeting by walking through each theme in succession. Perhaps use students to read Scripture or share stories about each daily theme.

We'd love to hear how you adapt and implement this content! Please share with us by emailing stories@youthworks.com

LIVE LIKE JESUS

DOMINANT THOUGHT

JESUS CAME NOT ONLY TO DIE FOR US BUT ALSO TO DEMONSTRATE HOW WE SHOULD LIVE.

OVERVIEW

Many of us know Jesus as the one who came and died for our sins, but sometimes we forget that Jesus also showed his followers how they should live. As he served and loved others, Jesus challenged his disciples to do for others what he did for them. Jesus' followers today can accept that same challenge. In what ways is Jesus inviting you to live more like him? How will you do that this week?

QUESTIONS YOU COULD ASK

1. What are some things in life that you wish you could watch a “demo” video for? How do we figure out how to do those things even without a demo right in front of us?
2. We read a passage in which Jesus provided a demo for his disciples. What did Jesus teach his followers by washing their feet? How did he set an example?
3. How would you have reacted if you were with Jesus that night and he knelt down to wash your feet? How do you feel when you think about Jesus, God’s only Son, bending down to wash dirty feet?
4. How would you fill in these blanks?

To me, Jesus is _____. I think the best example Jesus set for me was _____, and I have followed Jesus’ demonstration of how to live by the way I _____ but I think I need to get better at living like Jesus by _____. This week during the mission trip, I would like to _____ more like Jesus.

5. This week what are some ways you can follow Jesus’ example of how to live?

PRAYER SUGGESTION

Take some time to pray that you’d be able to follow Jesus’ example this week. First, pray that you’d be able to remember and learn from the way he set that example – the things he did and said here on earth. Then, pray that he would give you the strength, courage and faith to follow that example, even when it may be hard or scary. Give thanks to God for sending Jesus to earth, both to restore our relationship with God and to set an example for how we are to live as Christians.

DOMINANT THOUGHT

WE CAN IMITATE THE WAYS JESUS REACHED OUT TO OTHERS IN LOVE AND SERVICE.

OVERVIEW

Jesus reached out to people who needed to be loved. He really cared *for* and *about* people! And that is obvious in the ways he took time to listen, love and touch the lives of those whom others ignored. Jesus invites us to follow his example of valuing people in the ways we connect with them. Who do you think Jesus is challenging you to reach out to this week? What about back home? What are some ways you can do that?

QUESTIONS YOU COULD ASK

1. How do you think the blind men in Matthew 20 felt when they were sitting there on the roadside? How do you think they felt after Jesus healed their blindness?
2. When you hear this story, is it easier for you to think about how the blind men felt when Jesus noticed them or to think about how the crowd felt when Jesus stopped for the blind men? How do you think the crowd felt after Jesus healed the men?
3. How has Jesus reached out and into your life? How has God cared for you?
4. Which is easier for you, listening or being listened to? What makes listening hard? What can you learn from the way Jesus took time to ask and listen to the blind men?
5. Think about the actions Jesus took in this story: Jesus left, stopped, asked, loved and touched. Which one of these is easiest for you to follow his example in doing? Which is hardest? What are some reasons?
6. How can you reach out to someone by stopping, asking questions (then listening), loving and touching their life this week? Who is one person you could reach out to tomorrow?

ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURE

FROM YOUTHWORKS DEVO JOURNAL

- John 3:16–18
- 1 John 2:2–6
- Mark 2:1–12
- Hebrews 12:2 (MSG)

PRAYER SUGGESTION

Invite students to pray short one-sentence prayers asking for God's help with the aspect of "SALT" (Stop Ask Listen Touch) that is the hardest for them. If they have someone in mind to reach out to tomorrow, invite them to pray for that person and for the opportunity to reach out. Give thanks together for the love and care that Jesus showed to people on earth, and the care God shows to us each day.

STEP IN LIKE JESUS

DOMINANT THOUGHT

OUR LOVE SHOULD PROMPT US TO STEP IN, LIKE JESUS DID, WHEN WE SEE THINGS GOING WRONG.

OVERVIEW

Jesus' love for others and for God prompted him to step in when he saw a situation that fell short of God's good plan for people. We, too, have an invitation to boldly step into situations where things in the world are going wrong. Whether it's as big as a disease threatening a nation overseas or as close to home as a classmate facing criticism at a desk over, you can step in and make a difference. What wrongs do you see around you? What can you do?

LEADER'S NOTE

As you engage students with the idea of "Stepping In," there are a wide variety of needs that might surface – areas where students might want to step in either as individuals or as a group. This may mean stepping in for a family member or friend, stepping in to help right a wrong in your local community, or stepping in to actively engage global issues such as hunger, the need for clean water, help for victims of sex trafficking, etc. If you have students in your group who are already passionate about and engaged with one or more of these issues, give them an opportunity to share. Spend some time brainstorming as a group about a place where your group could step in together.

QUESTIONS YOU COULD ASK

1. We read a story of how Jesus stepped in. What was going wrong? Why did Jesus need to step in?
2. Was it OK for Jesus to "step in" in the way he did? Why?
3. What are some ways you want to step in?
4. What gets you excited about stepping in? What scares you or makes you want to hold back? How could we work together and help one another with those scary parts?
5. When you think about our community, what are some areas where someone needs to step in? Is anyone you know already doing something about that issue? If so, could we join them? If not, how could we be the ones to step in?

ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURE

FROM YOUTHWORKS DEVO JOURNAL

- Romans 5:6–8
- John 3:16–18 (MSG)
- Luke 4:18–19

PRAYER SUGGESTION

Have students thank God for reminding them of things that God cares about. Pray that they'd be able to follow Jesus' example in caring about the things that matter to God. Pray for courage, strength and guidance to be able to step in, wherever that may be and however it might look.

WEDNESDAY

LUKE 2:1-12

LET GO LIKE JESUS

DOMINANT THOUGHT

LIKE JESUS, WE CAN LET GO OF ALL THE THINGS THAT KEEP US FROM FULLY LOVING GOD AND OTHERS.

OVERVIEW

In order to fully love us, Jesus had to first let go of the advantages of being God. By coming to earth, Jesus was letting go of good things in order to love us better by being with us. All sorts of things can get in the way of our love for others. Like Jesus, we can let go of things that are keeping us from loving fully. What's keeping you from more deeply loving God and others? What do you need to let go?

LEADER'S NOTE

Jesus entered into the world to remove all barriers between God and us. Take this opportunity to facilitate a conversation about those barriers – whether they are barriers that are keeping students from *going deeper* in their relationship with Jesus or barriers that are keeping them from *beginning* a relationship with Jesus.

QUESTIONS YOU COULD ASK

1. We usually only hear about and celebrate Jesus' birth around Christmas time. How was it helpful to hear about Jesus coming to earth at a different time of year than we usually do?
2. How was Jesus different than who people had expected the promised Savior to be? How do these differences help you think about the things that Jesus let go of to come to earth? What were those things?
3. Why did Jesus let go of so much to come to earth? What does that mean to you? What does that have to do with our service and love for others?
4. What is something you chose to let go of? How did that feel then? How does it feel now? What did you lose? What did you gain?
5. What is something that you need to let go of? Why?
6. Do you think it will be hard to let that thing go? If so, how does thinking about what Jesus let go of to come to earth help you?

ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURE

FROM YOUTHWORKS DEVO JOURNAL

- Philippians 2:5–8
- Isaiah 59:2
- Philippians 2:5–8
- Romans 8:38–39

PRAYER SUGGESTION

Break into small groups of 3 or 4. Thank God for sending Jesus to earth to remove all barriers between us and God. Give thanks for the example Jesus set of how to live in a way that shows love to God and others. Pray about the thing each person wants to let go of – ask for God's help in letting go.

DEMONSTRATE LIKE JESUS

DOMINANT THOUGHT

JESUS SHOWED US HOW TO LOVE AND SERVE; NOW IT'S OUR JOB TO BE A DEMONSTRATION FOR OTHERS.

OVERVIEW

By washing their feet, Jesus wasn't only showing his disciples what love and service looks like; he was entrusting them with demonstrating those things to the world. Today, Jesus entrusts his followers with that same task of showing others who Jesus is and how we can live lives that God intended. Will you accept that invitation to show Jesus to the world? What are some ways you will be a demo of Jesus' love?

QUESTIONS YOU COULD ASK

1. During our introduction to the theme of DEMO: LIVE LIKE JESUS, we heard the story of Jesus washing his disciples' feet. Now we're reading this same passage again after talking about the demonstrations Jesus gave us. Was there anything new that you heard this time around that you didn't hear the first time?
2. How have you seen or experienced someone demonstrating what Jesus' love looks like?
3. Jesus was teaching his disciples something important as he washed their feet. What is one of the most important things he has taught you about humble service to others?
4. How does the Holy Spirit empower us to love, serve and live like Jesus?
5. Jesus calls us to follow his example. Who is someone you could show Jesus' love toward? How could you do that?
6. Since we began talking about how Jesus is our Demo, what has changed about how you see Jesus? How you see yourself? How you see others?

ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURE FROM YOUTHWORKS DEVO JOURNAL

- Matthew 28:19-20
- John 14:26-27
- Ephesians 3:16-20 (MSG)
- John 13:15

RECOMMENDED ACTIVITY

- In groups of 2-4 people, have students share their answers to the below questions. After each person shares, have the small group pray together about their answers.
 - What is one thing you would like to see God do in the lives of people in your community?
 - What is one thing you would like God to do in your life?

PRAYER SUGGESTION

Pray that God, through the Holy Spirit, would strengthen you to live like Jesus each day: to reach out, to step in, to let go and to demonstrate Jesus' love for others.

SERVING AT HOME

LEADER'S NOTE

You might want to really focus your conversations around how to apply these thematic ideas to serving their own community. You could include a question or two from this section every time you meet, or use this section all at once to put legs on the DEMO: LIVE LIKE JESUS theme.

QUESTIONS YOU COULD ASK

1. Where is there value in our community? What are some of the beautiful things about it? Where can we already see God at work?
2. What are some of the broken places in our community? Who are the people we could reach out to by being SALT (Stopping, Asking, Loving and Touching their lives)?
3. What are some barriers that exist between us and our community? Are there other barriers that have already been broken down?
4. How might God want us as a youth group to...
 - **Reach out** in our community?
 - **Step in** to help others?
 - **Let go** of the things that might hold us back?
 - **Demonstrate** the love of Jesus to our neighbors?
5. What help, tools and resources do we need to be able to do some of those things we talked about in Question 4?
6. What could be our first step in making this happen? Will we take that step?

INVITE YOUR STUDENTS TO VISIT WWW.REVERBMAGAZINE.COM TO FIND ARTICLES, STORIES AND IDEAS TO HELP THEM DEEPEN THEIR FAITH, PROCESS THEIR TRIP, SHARE THEIR STORY AND CONTINUE SERVING BACK HOME.