

# HELP WANTED

1. What do you think of this statement? Check a box in each column.  
Teenagers lack the knowledge and experience necessary to have a meaningful ministry with others.
- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Most adults believe this.       | <input type="checkbox"/> Most teenagers believe this.       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Some adults believe this.       | <input type="checkbox"/> Some teenagers believe this.       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hardly any adults believe this. | <input type="checkbox"/> Hardly any teenagers believe this. |

2. Do you **A** (agree) or **D** (disagree) with the following statements?
- \_\_\_ High schoolers should think of themselves before they think of others.
  - \_\_\_ Teenagers are powerless to make the world a better place.
  - \_\_\_ If teenagers were paid well, they would help the poor, the hungry, or the homeless.
  - \_\_\_ Serving others through volunteer work helps teenagers become more successful adults.
  - \_\_\_ Teenagers would rather be entertained by the church than challenged to help others.
  - \_\_\_ If teenagers want to be more like Jesus, they need to serve others in his name.



3. What do you think is the **biggest obstacle** standing in the way of teenagers helping others in the name of Christ?

4. If you could pick and plan **one service project** to take part in, what would you do?

5. Check out what these verses say about Christian service.

Psalm 34:14

Luke 6:35

James 2:17

Habakkuk 1:2-5

1 Corinthians 9:19

1 Peter 2:12

Matthew 5:16

Philippians 2:4

Matthew 25:34-40

1 Timothy 6:18, 19

# HELP WANTED [Christian service]

## THIS WEEK

Christian service is an important part of being in the church. But today, some adults think that youth groups are more concerned about camps and fun activities. But teenagers have a lot to give. This TalkSheet helps you to focus your group's attention on the opportunities that await Christians willing to serve the Lord.

## OPENER

For this opener, bring several days' worth of newspapers to your youth meeting and break the students into small groups. Give each group some of the papers and tell them to look for articles that identify a need in your community. Each group should then pick one article from those they found and present the article to the rest of the group, defining the need and possible solutions or resources that could help meet this need. Keep track of the problems and solutions from each group on the whiteboard or overhead. After every group has presented, have them come together to discuss the viability and reality of the proposed solutions. Could the youth group help meet these needs and make a difference in your community? This challenge is a great lead-in to the discussion.

## THE DISCUSSION, BY NUMBERS

1. Why do some people think teenagers aren't consulted and utilized more in community and Christian service? How does that make your kids feel? Why do some people have this misconception?
2. Poll the answers to each of the statements. What do your kids think? Have them share their opinions and debate if they don't agree. Discuss the pros and cons of each statement.
3. What's standing in their way in getting out there in the name of Christ? Allow the young people to volunteer their completed sentences with the group. How can they get rid of these obstacles?
4. Ask the group to share their ideas (you can split them in groups to brainstorm if you want). How easily could a project like this be planned and what are the benefits of participating this project? Make a master list of their ideas and discuss the ones that would be the most accessible for your group.
5. Create a master list of what the group learned about Christian service. Focus on two or three of the passages for group discussion.

## THE CLOSE

Christ was and is the transformer of society. Sin in the world affects more than just individuals—it affects all of society. But because of Christ, people are free from sin and are called to work for the good of mankind (Titus 2:7; 3:8) to show the love of Jesus to others. Emphasize that your kids—and all Christians—have a responsibility as God's children to care for those around us—for both their physical and emotional needs. You may want to close by reading Matthew 25:31-46 and with a time of prayer.

## MORE

- What can your kids do to make a difference for others? You may want to plan a service project for your group, based on their interests in helping others. For more ideas of what your group can do for missions or service projects, check out *Ideas Library: Camps, Retreats, Missions & Service Ideas for Youth Groups* (Youth Specialties).
- Why do a lot of people not like to help others? How has today's self-centered society corrupted the desire to help others? You may want to take a look at how the media and society have influenced people to become more self-centered and less Christ-centered. What influence do advertisements and commercials have on people? Why is society focused more on money than on loving others? What can your kids do to avoid getting caught in the self-centered trap?