

YOUTH ACTIVITY: HOW DO WE SHARE?

Supplies Needed

Bible

As we give, it is important to understand the implications of our charity and benevolence.

Paul's letter to the small churches in Galatia is one of inclusivity, hospitality, and generosity. His message took hold in a culture that cared little for these values, except as they led to self-serving benefits. In some ways, that is not much different than what we see today in our own society.

Young people look around their communities – and even the world – and want to share with others, but HOW we share is as important as the sharing itself. These activities are designed to think about this very topic. This activity involves a Bible study and three role plays. You can choose to do this activity in one meeting or use it over the course of several gatherings.

Bible Study

This year's focus text for One Great Hour of Sharing is Galatians 6:9-10

⁹ "So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up. ¹⁰ So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all, and especially for those of the family of faith." [NRSV]

⁹⁻¹⁰ "So let's not allow ourselves to get fatigued doing good. At the right time we will harvest a good crop if we don't give up, or quit. Right now, therefore, every time we get the chance, let us work for the benefit of all, starting with the people closest to us in the community of faith." [MSG]

Break into smaller groups and discuss these questions (others can be added):

- When have you wanted to "give up" and stop doing good for another?
- Can you think of a time when you have just said, "I'm tired of helping?" What motivated you to continue?
- When has your life been changed for the better because you shared with another?

Role Playing

Many times, we share with others without thinking about the implications. We look for a "quick fix" through our sharing. It is important for youth to realize that sometimes our sincere actions are not received in the same way by the recipient of our charity. In fact, sometimes we just feel better about ourselves.

For this role-playing exercise, divide the youth into smaller groups to consider three different scenarios of "sharing." The role plays seek to bring up issues regarding how groups engage with mutuality and sensitivity.

Ask the groups to role play and then discuss the questions which follow:

Role Play 1

Upon seeing the need for clothing in one community, on the final day of their mission trip, the youth gathered up their dirty clothes and gave them to the community.

Role Play 2

Your youth group is on a mission trip. It's the middle of summer and very hot. The group purchase fans for some community members even though they know access to electricity is limited and expensive.

Role Play 3

Your group visits a local food pantry/domestic violence shelter/non-profit agency. While on the tour, the guide mentions that they have a computer lab but not enough printers for those who use the lab. As soon as the tour is over, your group decides to purchase two printers at a local office supply store and donate them immediately.

Questions for all groups

1. How do you think the youth group felt about the interaction?
2. How do you think the host community felt about the interaction?
3. What might be the consequences of giving gifts in this way?
4. What might have been a better approach to the situation?