



Living as a Disciple

Step 2

Leader's Manual

New International Version (NIV) Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®
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Living as a Disciple Step 2 Leader's Manual

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Introduction

Young Disciples is designed to guide students in navigating the foundational teachings of Jesus and the apostles in order to further establish them in their faith as disciples of Christ.

Designed for students age nine and older, this study can be adapted to a variety of cultures and types of gatherings including various size groups of children of different ages in the following settings: student and mentor, individual families, multiple family gatherings where parents, grandparents, or caregivers participate in the class with their children, VBS, Sunday School, or multiple family gatherings where an adult leads the children in this study while parents engage in similar topics.

Suggested Preparation of Leader's Manual and Student and Mentor Journals:

- **Leader's Guide (binder for each leader)**
 - ❖ 1-inch binder
 - ❖ Include a copy of the Leader's Guide.
 - ❖ Include a copy of the Student Journal and the Mentor Journal.
 - ❖ Review the classroom resources (next page) and print those that are needed.
- **Student Journals (binder for each student)**
 - ❖ ½-inch or 1-inch binder
 - ❖ Include a copy of the Student Journal.
 - ❖ Add paper for drawing in the front pocket.
 - ❖ Optional: Include a CD of Bible Memory Verse Songs.
- **Mentor Journals (binder for each mentor)**
 - ❖ ½-inch or 1-inch binder
 - ❖ Include a copy of the Mentor Journal.

Planning Tips:

- Have an in-class helper to assist the leader as needed.
- A minimum of 90 minutes is suggested for each lesson. The Got Time activities are optional.
- Although we want to encourage the students and mentors to be comfortable with finding Bible verses, you may not have enough time in class for participants to look up every verse. You may choose to give each person a copy of the Bible verses provided for each lesson at the end of these resources.
- Look for opportunities during class when students are working on a craft or project to talk with mentors separately about their experience in the class and at home. Use this time to encourage them in mentoring their young disciple(s).
- Communion: Plan a communion ceremony at the end of Step 2. Several resources are provided in this manual to help you plan.



Step 2 Classroom Resources

(available at ResourceWell.org)

Session 1: Reading the Bible

THE WELCOME: Young Disciples' Step 2 Bible Bookmark
GOT TIME? (All Sessions): Walking on the Word – Footprints

Session 2: Praying

THE WELCOME: When Did Jesus Pray? Cards
THE WAY: The Lord's Prayer Guide Cards

Session 3: Living Generously

THE WAY DISCUSSION: Offering Cards
THE WAY CHALLENGE: Offering Reminder Cards

Session 4: Serving Others

THE WAY DISCUSSION: Spiritual Gifts Survey
THE WAY CHALLENGE: Let Your Light Shine Reminder Cards

Session 5: Being in Community

THE WAY DISCUSSION: Love Cards
Communion Reminder Card

Session 6: Worshiping



Scope and Sequence

Step 1: Becoming a Disciple			
	Session	Aim	Scripture References
1	Seeing the Light	To understand spiritual darkness and God's kingdom of light.	Isaiah 60:19; John 1:4-5, 12:46; 2 Corinthians 4:6
2	Choosing the Way	To understand that only through choosing to follow Jesus do we have eternal fellowship with God.	Genesis 3:1-6; 1 John 1:5; Romans 5:12; Psalm 86:15; 1 Peter 3:18; John 3:16, 14:6
3	Becoming a New Creation	To know what it means to be born again as a disciple belonging to Christ.	Romans 10:13; John 5:24; 2 Corinthians 5:17; John 3:3-5, 16-17; Ephesians 2:4-10
4	Celebrating a New Identity	To understand the symbolism of baptism.	Mark 1:9-11; 2 Corinthians 5:15, 17; John 1:12; 1 Corinthians 12:13
5	Belonging to God's Family	To know what it means to be a member of the body of Christ.	1 John 3:1a; Matthew 12:48-50; John 14:2-3; Colossians 3:14-15; Ephesians 4:14-16
Baptism Celebration John 14:6; Romans 10:9			

Step 2: Living as a Disciple			
	Session	Aim	Scripture References
1	Reading the Bible	To understand the value of studying God's Word.	Psalm 119:105; Deuteronomy 6:5-9; 2 Peter 1:16-21; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; Hebrews 4:12
2	Praying*	To learn how to use the Lord's Prayer as a guide for daily prayer.	Matthew 6:5-15; 1 Chronicles 29:11; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18; 1 John 1:9
3	Living Generously	To understand the importance of generosity.	2 Corinthians 9:6-8, 12-15; Malachi 3:10; Acts 2:32-35; 1 Timothy 6:17-19; Matthew 6:20-21
4	Serving Others	To learn how God has gifted us to serve others.	Matthew 4:18-20; 22:35-40; Luke 10:41-42; John 8:7-11; 11:32-35; 2 Corinthians 8:9; Philippians 2:6-8
5	Being in Community	To learn key components of a thriving Christian community.	John 13:34-35; Acts 2:42-47; 1 Corinthians 13:4-7; Colossians 3:12-17
6	Worshiping	To understand what it means to live a life of worship and to partake in Holy Communion together.	Psalm 100; Luke 10:27; Matthew 26:26-28; Hebrews 9:15; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26



Dictionary

Baptism: The sprinkling or immersion of a believer in water. Going under the water and coming up stands for the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus. It also stands for the way new believers have died to their old ways and now have a new identity as a follower of Christ.

Notes: _____

Body of Christ: The entire group (past, present and future) of all who follow Christ. Each member of the body of Christ is different, yet important to the whole body.

Notes: _____

Born again: The transformation that occurs when we choose to follow Jesus. We are given a second birth as a new creation - changed from a person who lives and dies apart from God, to a child of God who will live forever close with God.

Notes: _____

The Church: The entire group (past, present and future) of all who follow Christ. The Church is also known as the body of Christ, the Bride of Christ, and God's family.

Notes: _____

Christian: A follower of Christ, also known as a disciple, believer, or saint.

Notes: _____

Communion: A holy meal of bread that stands for the body of Christ, and juice or wine that stands for the blood of Christ. Believers share this holy meal often to remember how Jesus gave His life (His body and His blood) to save us.

Notes: _____

Disciple: A follower of Christ also known as a Christian, believer, or saint.

Notes: _____

Fasting: Going without food. Believers sometimes fast when they pray to help them focus on God and to come closer to Him.

Notes: _____

God's family: The entire group (past, present, and future) of all who follow Christ. All who follow Christ are adopted by God as His own children.

Notes: _____

God's Word: The Bible is called God's Word, or the Scriptures. The Word is also used in John 1 as the name for Jesus Christ.

Notes: _____

Dictionary continued ...

Holy: Perfect and without sin.

Notes: _____

Redeemed: Purchased. Jesus is our Redeemer because He fully paid for our sins. All who believe in Him belong to Him and are free from the punishment of sin.

Notes: _____

Saved: Rescued. Jesus is the Savior who rescues us from a life without God by taking the punishment for our sins. When Jesus saves us, our souls live forever close with God.

Notes: _____

Sin: Doing wrong in God's eyes.

Notes: _____

Spiritual Gifts

Prophecy: The ability to see what is right and wrong in God's eyes, and speak that truth to others.

Serving: The ability to see the needs of others and provide for them by doing something.

Teaching: The ability to explain the truth found in God's Word so that others can understand it.

Encouraging: The ability to challenge and inspire others to be their very best for God.

Giving: The ability to joyfully share with others the resources of time, talents, and money that God gives.

Leading: The ability to lead and organize others for God's work.

Showing Mercy: the ability to feel deeply the pain of others and care for their hurts.

Notes: _____

Tithing: Giving one tenth (a tithe) of one's earnings as an offering to the Church.

Notes: _____



The Lord's Prayer and Bible Memory Verses

The Lord's Prayer

Matthew 6:9-13 (NIV) with the doxology

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be Your name,
Your kingdom come,
Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from the evil one.
For Yours is the kingdom
and the power
and the glory forever.
Amen.

Bible Memory Verses

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord,
"plans to prosper you and not to harm you,
plans to give you hope and a future.
Then you will call on Me and come and pray to Me,
and I will listen to you.
You will seek Me and find Me
when you seek Me with all your heart."
Jeremiah 29:11-13 (NIV)



Song Lyrics

Follow Me (Matthew 16:24, 4:19)

(Sheet music, song & track available at ResourceWell.org)

If anyone would come after Me, he must deny himself and take up his cross.
If anyone would come after Me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me.

Follow Me, come follow Me. And I will make you fishers of men. (2x.)

(Repeat from the beginning.)

Come follow, come follow. Come follow, come follow. Come follow Me!

I Will Listen (Genesis 28:15)

(Sheet music, song & track available at ResourceWell.org)

God speaks to me through ev'ry rainbow that I see.
He speaks to me through Bible stories that I read.
He speaks to me through ev'ryone who cares for me and I will listen to the Lord.
I will listen to what God, the Lord will say. (3x.)
I will listen to the Lord.

(Repeat from the beginning.)

I will listen to what God, the Lord will say. (3x.)
I will listen to the Lord. I will listen to the Lord. I will listen to the Lord.

You Will Seek Me (Jeremiah 29:11-14)

(Sheet music, song & track available at ResourceWell.org)

You will seek Me and you will find Me, when you seek Me with all your heart.
You will seek Me and you will find Me, when you seek Me with all your heart.
For I know the plans I have for you declares the Lord.
Plans to prosper you and not to harm you, to give you hope and a future.
Then you will call on Me and come and pray to Me.
And I will listen to you.

(Repeat from the beginning.)

You will seek Me and you will find Me, when you seek Me with all your heart. (2x.)

Song Lyrics continued ...

Search Me, O God (Psalm 139:23-24)

(Sheet music, song & track available at ResourceWell.org)

Search me, O God and know my heart; search me, O God and know my heart.
Search me, O God and know my heart; search me, O God.

Test me and know my anxious thoughts; test me and know my anxious thoughts.
Test me and know my anxious thoughts; test me, O God.
See if there is any offensive way in me.
And lead me in the way; lead me in the way everlasting, everlasting.

Search me, O God and know my heart; search me, O God and know my heart.
Search me, O God and know my heart; search me, O God.

Test me and know my anxious thoughts; test me and know my anxious thoughts.
Test me and know my anxious thoughts; test me, O God.
See if there is any offensive way in me.
And lead me in the way; lead me in the way, everlasting, everlasting, everlasting.
Come search my heart. Come search my heart. Come search my heart.

He Who Began A Good Work by Steve Green

He who began a good work in you
He who began a good work in you
Will be faithful to complete it
He'll be faithful to complete it
He who started the work will be faithful to complete it in you

If the struggle you're facing is slowly replacing your hope with despair
Or the process is long and you're losing your song in the night
You can be sure that the Lord has His hand on you
Safe and secure, He will never abandon you
You are His treasure and He finds His pleasure in you

Song Lyrics continued ...

Thy Word by Amy Grant

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path. (2x.)
When I feel afraid, and think I've lost my way. Still, you're there right beside me.
Nothing will I fear as long as you are near. Please be near me to the end.

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path. (2x.)
I will not forget Your love for me and yet, my heart forever is wandering.
Jesus by my guide, and hold me to your side, and I will love you to the end.
Nothing will I fear as long as you are near; please be near me to the end.

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path. (2x.)
And a light unto my path. You're the light unto my path.

Our Father by Jared Anderson, Don Poythress

Verse 1

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name.
Your children in worship, give You the highest praise.
Our lives are changed in Your presence. We pray today, Lord, have Your way.

On earth as it is in heaven, on earth as it is in heaven, come down, come down. (2x.)

Verse 2

Our Father in heaven, you give us what we need
Forgive our transgressions and set your people free
Our lives are changed in Your presence. We pray today, Lord, have Your way.

On earth as it is in heaven, on earth as it is in heaven, come down, come down. (2x.)
Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever and ever. (2x.)

On earth as it is in heaven, on earth as it is in heaven, come down, come down. (2x.)
Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever and ever. (2x.)
Amen

Song Lyrics continued ...

Tuombe Mungu (Swahili translation: Let us pray to God)

(Sheet music, song & track available at ResourceWell.org)

Tuombe Mungu. (Let us pray to God.)
Baba yetu mbinguni (Our Father in heaven,)
Ufalme wako uje. (Your kingdom come.)
Kutoa ajili yetu. (Provide for us.)
Utusamehe. (Forgive us.)
Utuokoe. (Protect us.)
Amina. Amina. (Amen.)
Tuombe Mungu! Tuombe Mungu! Tuombe Mungu! Tuombe Mungu!

Verse 1

Our Father in heaven, Our Father in heaven,
Hallowed be Your name. Hallowed be Your name.
Our Father in heaven, Our Father in heaven,
Hallowed be Your name. Hallowed be Your name.
Your kingdom come, Your kingdom come,
Your will be done, Your will be done
On earth as in heaven. On earth as in heaven.
Tuombe Mungu! Tuombe Mungu!

Chorus

Tuombe Mungu! Let us pray to the Father. Tuombe Mungu! Pray the words of the Son.
Tuombe Mungu! Let us pray in the Spirit. Let us pray as one.

Interlude: Tuombe Mungu! Tuombe Mungu!

Verse 2

Give us now our daily bread. Give us now our daily bread.
Forgive us as we forgive. Forgive us as we forgive.
Lead us not into temptation. Lead us not into temptation.
Deliver us. Deliver us.

Chorus

Verse 3

For Yours is the kingdom. For Yours is the kingdom.
Yours is the power. Yours is the power.
Yours is the glory. Yours is the glory.
Forever and ever! Forever and ever!

Chorus

Closing: Tuombe Mungu! Tuombe Mungu! Tuombe Mungu! Tuombe Mungu!



Leader's Guide
Young Disciples Step 2
Living as a Disciple
Session 1

Reading the Bible

Session Aim: To understand the value of studying God's Word.

Step 2: Living as a Disciple			
	Session	Aim	Scripture References
1	Reading the Bible	To understand the value of studying God's Word.	Psalm 119:105; Deuteronomy 6:5-9; 2 Peter 1:16-21; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; Hebrews 4:12
2	Praying*	To learn how to use the Lord's Prayer as a guide for daily prayer.	Matthew 6:5-15; 1 Chronicles 29:11; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18; 1 John 1:9
3	Living Generously	To understand the importance of generosity.	2 Corinthians 9:6-8, 12-15; Malachi 3:10; Acts 2:32-35; 1 Timothy 6:17-19; Matthew 6:20-21
4	Serving Others	To learn how God has gifted us to serve others.	Matthew 4:18-20; 22:35-40; Luke 10:41-42; John 8:7-11; 11:32-35; 2 Corinthians 8:9; Philippians 2:6-8
5	Being in Community	To learn key components of a thriving Christian community.	John 13:34-35; Acts 2:42-47; 1 Corinthians 13:4-7; Colossians 3:12-17
6	Worshipping	To understand what it means to live a life of worship and to partake in Holy Communion together.	Psalm 100; Luke 10:27; Matthew 26:26-28; Hebrews 9:15; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

* Prior to Session 2, choose the version of The Lord's Prayer that is most familiar to your group, and use that version throughout Step 2. Some versions use more formal language such as "Thy name" instead of "Your name." Versions also differ on whether they use the word trespasses, debts, or sins.

Step 2 Terms: God's Word, fasting, Body of Christ, disciple, God's family, tithing, Communion, spiritual gifts: prophesying, serving, teaching, encouraging, giving, leading, showing mercy. (For definitions, see the dictionary in the Leader's Manual, Mentor's Journal, and Young Disciple's Journal.)

Step 2 Bible Memory Verses: Jeremiah 29:11-13

How to Use This Guide: Young Disciples is designed to guide students in navigating the foundational teachings of Jesus and the apostles in order to further establish them in their faith as disciples of Christ. Designed for students age nine and older, this study can be adapted to a variety of cultures, types of gatherings, and groups of various sizes. Your group may consist of students and mentors, an individual family, multiple families where parents, grandparents, or caregivers participate in the class with their children, multiple families where an adult leads the children in this study while parents engage in similar topics, or you may use the curriculum in a Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, or other church program.



Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME	Up to 15	Opening Activity 1: Light on the Path	Bible, black sturdy paper or paper painted black, yarn or string, glue or tape, variety of white or yellow craft supplies (ex. paper, fabric, glitter, stickers, chalk, etc.)
		Introduction to Young Disciples: Step 2	<i>Student Journals, Mentor Journals</i>
		Opening Activity 2: Imagine That!	Bible, chairs, <i>Young Disciples Bible Bookmark</i> (available in Leader's Guide Resources), optional: sash, electric or hand fans, water spray bottles, wooden blocks
THE WORSHIP	Up to 10	Worship Sheet music and recordings for the Young Disciples Song and Bible Memory Verse Songs are available at ResourceWell.org. Scripture References: Psalm 119:10-16; 18	Lyrics are found in the <i>Leader's Guide and Student & Mentor Journals</i> , Bible Bible Memory Verse Songs: "Follow Me" (Matthew 16:24; 4:19) "I Will Listen" (Genesis 28:15) "Search Me, O God" (Psalm 139:23-24) "You Will Seek Me" (Jeremiah 29:11-14) Additional Song Suggestions: "He Who Began A Good Work" by Steve Green "Our Father" by Jared Anderson, Don Poythress "Thy Word" by Amy Grant "Tuombe Mungu" by Eleanor Tracey
THE WORD	Up to 10	Read the Bible: Deuteronomy 6:5-9; 2 Peter 1:16-21; 2 Timothy 3:16-17	Bible(s) Challenge Scripture: Hebrews 4:12
THE WAY	Up to 45	Illustration: Open the Package	A wrapped package or sack containing batteries, a family photo, bug spray, bandage strips, a blanket, binoculars, and a second wrapped package containing a Bible
		Discussion: Opening the Bible	Bible(s)
		Share Your Story: God's Word Speaks to Me	Supplies from ILLUSTRATION: OPEN THE PACKAGE
		Challenge: Making a Plan	None
	Final 5	Final Five: Closing Prayer and Daily Steps	<i>Daily Steps: Step 2</i> Session 1 take-home devotional for students and mentors
GOT TIME?	Up to 10	Sharing Stories: God's Word Speaks to Me	None
	Up to 10	Bible Memory Verse Activity: Word Puzzle	Bible, large sheets of paper
	Up to 10	Bible Memory Verse Activity: Walking on the Word	2 Bibles or a poster with the Bible Memory Verse, sturdy paper, <i>Walking on the Word Footprints</i> (available in Leader's Guide Resources), large heart cut from poster board, Bible Memory Verse Song "You Will Seek Me"

Session 1: Scriptures on Reading the Bible

Step 2 Bible Memory Verses

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord,
"plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.
Then you will call on Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you.
You will seek Me and find Me when you seek Me with all your heart."
Jeremiah 29:11-13

Psalms 119:105

"Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path."

Deuteronomy 6:5-9

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates."

2 Peter 1:16-21

"For we did not follow cleverly devised stories when we told you about the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ in power, but we were eyewitnesses of His majesty. He received honor and glory from God the Father when the voice came to Him from the Majestic Glory, saying, 'This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.' We ourselves heard this voice that came from heaven when we were with Him on the sacred mountain.

"We also have the prophetic message as something completely reliable, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation of things. For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit."

2 Timothy 3:16-17

"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work."

Hebrews 4:12

"For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart."



Picturing the Word

THE WELCOME

OPENING ACTIVITY 1: LIGHT ON THE PATH

Purpose: To create pictures or collages to introduce the concept of a well-lit path

Supplies: Bible, black sturdy paper or paper painted black, yarn or string, glue or tape, variety of white or yellow craft supplies (ex. paper, fabric, glitter, stickers, chalk, etc.)

Directions:

1. Ask a volunteer to read Psalm 119:105. Give each student a sheet of black paper. Explain that this represents a dark path.
2. Students use 2 strands of yarn or string of equal length to create the outline of a winding path on their black paper.
3. Students glue or tape the yarn or string path in place.
4. Student use white or yellow craft supplies or chalk markings to represent light along the path.
5. While students complete their project, discuss why we need light on a dark path. **Describe a time you were walking in the dark and needed a light to help you safely find your way?** (Students respond.) **How do you feel when you are in walking in darkness and cannot find a light?** (Students respond.) **How do you feel when you find a light to help you see the path in the darkness.** (Students respond.)

INTRODUCTION TO YOUNG DISCIPLES: STEP 2

Purpose: To introduce the class and the Student and Mentor Journals.

Supplies: *Student Journals, Mentor Journals*

Distribute the Student Journals and Mentor Journals. **In your journals, you will see an introduction and a list of responsibilities which you agree to assume by taking this class. Right now, let's turn to the Student Responsibilities page in your journals and read it together.** Leader reads the Student's Responsibilities page aloud and asks students to sign at the bottom of their page. **Mentors, please take time at home to read and sign the Mentor Responsibilities page.**

Your journals contain a daily devotional for you to complete for each session. Student Journals include some blank paper in case you prefer to answer some of the questions by drawing a picture. At the close of our final lesson of Step 2, we will celebrate the Lord's Supper by sharing in Holy Communion together.

The Mentor's Journal includes a Moving Forward page for you to consider and use to take notes on ways you can support your young disciple. Both the Mentor and Student Journals include a dictionary of terms of the faith, the Apostles' Creed, the Lord's Prayer, Step 2 Bible Memory Verses, scripture references for Bible stories, important verses connected to the lesson, and next steps you can take to grow in your faith after this class has ended.

THE WELCOME *continued...*

OPENING ACTIVITY 2: IMAGINE THAT!

Purpose: To create pictures or collages to illustrate a well-lit path.

Supplies: Bible, chairs, *Young Disciples Bible Bookmark* (available in Leader's Guide Resources), optional: sash, electric or hand fans, water spray bottles, wooden blocks

God gives us our imagination so we can picture things and events that we have never seen. You can use your imagination to experience the Bible stories as if you were there. That helps you understand more about who God is and what He has done for us. That helps you grow closer to Him. Let's use our imaginations to act out one of the Bible stories.

Directions:

1. Ask a volunteer to read Matthew 14:22-33.
2. Arrange chairs in an oval shape as the sides of a boat. Seat students inside the boat in rows as if ready to row the boat with imaginary oars.
3. Assign students roles as Jesus, Peter, and disciples. (Jesus wears a sash, if available.)
4. Divide helpers and mentors into 3 teams (wind team, wave team, lightning team). **Each time the Bible mentions the storm, the wind team will make "wooshing" sounds and create a breeze using electric or hand fans. The wave team will carefully shake the students' chairs and lightly spray students with water spray bottles. The lightning team will clap their hands or wooden blocks together to represent thunder and turn the lights on and off or open and close window shades to represent lightning.**
5. Reread the story with dramatic inflection as everyone acts out the story.
6. At the end of the story, have students remain in the boat for a brief discussion.

When we read a Bible story, we can't always act it out with our friends, but we can always use our imaginations to ask the following questions:

WHAT? WHO? HOW? WHAT? WHAT? WHAT?

Using a Young Disciples Bible Bookmark as your guide, discuss the story in Matthew 14:22-33 using the questions below.

- **WHAT happened in the story?**
- **WHO are the people in the story?**
- **HOW would I feel if I were them?**
- **WHAT would I have done if I had been there?**
- **WHAT is God showing me about Himself?**
- **WHAT is God showing me about myself and others?**



Worship the God who speaks to us

THE WORSHIP



Today, we worship the God who speaks to us. How does God speak to you? (Students respond.) **God speaks to each of us in many different ways, but the clearest way He speaks to us is through His written words in the Bible.**

Through His Word, God reveals Himself to us, not only who He is and what He has done, but also who we are and who we can be because of our relationship with Him. If we ask Him, He will show us these things as we read His Word, The Bible. Read Psalm 119:18.

Disciple means "learner." As disciples of Jesus, we want to learn from Him. We learn not only from reading Bible stories, but also by reading the Bible verses about His teachings, laws, and commands. Psalm 119 worships God for these things, which the psalmist calls laws and statutes. Choose a volunteer to read Psalm 119:10-16.



Reading God's Word brings us closer to Him. He has promised that when we seek Him with all our heart, we will find Him. Sing Bible Memory Verse Songs: "You Will Seek Me" (Jeremiah 29:11-13).

Sing "I Will Listen," "Thy Word," and/or other songs about God's Word.



Read Psalm 119:18 again, but this time read it together as a prayer: **"Open my eyes that I may see wonderful things in your law."** Then, ask a volunteer to lead a prayer thanking God for giving us His Word.



Reading God's Word

THE WORD

Purpose: To recognize the eternal value of God's Word.

Leader Tip: Have a different student read each Scripture passage aloud.



God wants us to meditate on His Word for several reasons: to allow the Holy Spirit to keep it in our hearts to encourage us when we are sad, tired, discouraged, or alone; to keep us from sinning against God and one another; and most importantly, to show us how to love God and others. He wants us to think about His Word every day. Ask a volunteer to read Deuteronomy 6:5-9. **"Write it on your foreheads"** refers to an ancient custom of the Jewish people. They would write a favorite scripture on a tiny scroll and place it in a locket on their foreheads as a constant reminder of God's Word.

How do we know that the Bible is the true Word of God, not just stories made up by men? Read 2 Peter 1:16-21.

Why do you think God wants us to read His Word? (Students respond.) Ask a volunteer to read 2 Timothy 3:16-17.

Challenge Scripture: For more advanced students, read and discuss Hebrews 4:12.



The Bible is a gift from God

THE WAY

ILLUSTRATION: OPEN THE PACKAGE

Purpose: To help students understand the value and importance of the Bible

Supplies: A wrapped package or sack containing batteries, a family photo, bug spray, bandage strips, a blanket, binoculars, and a second wrapped package containing a Bible

Have you ever thought about what it would be like to be away from your family at a camp for a week or two? (Students respond.) **What would be fun about that experience?** (Students respond.) **What might be difficult about that experience?** (Students respond.) **As I tell you this story, imagine what it would be like if you were the camper in this story.**

Peter's grandmother had saved up her money to send him to camp for a week. For months, Peter was looking forward to sleeping in a camp tent, swimming in the lake, exploring the woods, and making new friends at camp. Pick up the first wrapped package. **When he first arrived at camp, he began to unpack, and saw a wrapped package in the bottom of his backpack. It was from his grandmother.** Display the package. **He started to unwrap it, but then heard the camp dinner bell ring. He jumped up, shoved the package back in his backpack, and headed to the campfire for dinner.** Place the package under your chair.

Peter was so busy with camp activities that he completely forgot about the wrapped package! His first few days at camp were amazing; it had been just as he had hoped! But, soon he began having problems. On the second night, his flashlight ran out of BATTERIES, so he had trouble seeing the path to his tent. He was missing home and wished he had packed a PHOTO of his family. He forgot to bring BUG SPRAY, so the next morning, his legs and ankles itched terribly from bug bites. Then, he got blisters on his feet from his hiking shoes, and he had no BANDAGE STRIPS to cover the blisters. Each night at bedtime, he was frightened by the strange noises he heard from the wildlife, and he wished he had his favorite BLANKET to help him sleep. Camp was much more difficult than he thought it would be.

Finally, on the last night, as he packed up his backpack, Peter remembered the wrapped package from his grandmother. He couldn't believe he had forgotten about it. He was excited to open it, and he tore off the wrapping. When he opened the package, he found many thoughtful gifts from his grandmother. Ask a student to unwrap the first package and display the contents. **There were extra flashlight BATTERIES, a PICTURE of his family, a can of BUG SPRAY, BANDAGE STRIPS, and his favorite BLANKET from home. There was even a small pair of BINOCULARS to help him see more closely the beautiful scenery and wildlife.**

How do you think Peter felt when he saw everything he needed was in the package? (Students respond.) **Just as Peter's grandmother gave him a week at camp and all he needed for it, our heavenly Father gives us a lifetime and all we need for it.** Hold up the second wrapped package. **This wrapped package holds our heavenly Father's thoughtful gift to each of you. Can you guess what is inside?** (Students respond.) Ask a student to unwrap the package.

THE WAY *continued...*

DISCUSSION: OPEN THE BIBLE

Purpose: To help students understand the blessings that come from reading the Bible.

Supplies: Bible(s)

Leader's Note: This discussion is based on the ILLUSTRATION: OPEN THE PACKAGE.

Discussion questions:

1. **How is the Bible like the special package Peter's grandmother packed for him?** (Students respond.)
2. **What items did Peter's grandmother put in the package?** (Students respond.)
 - Batteries for his flashlight to **GUIDE** him on the path to his tent
 - A family photograph to **COMFORT** him when he was feeling sad or alone
 - Bug spray to **PROTECT** him from the mosquitos
 - Bandage strips to **HEAL** his blisters
 - His favorite blanket to **ENCOURAGE** him when he was afraid
 - A pair for binoculars to **SHOW** him things his eyes couldn't otherwise see
3. **How might the Bible GUIDE you to God's path for your life?** (Students respond.)
4. **How might the Bible COMFORT you when you feel alone?** (Students respond.)
5. **How might the Bible PROTECT you heart, mind from evil?** (Students respond.)
6. **How might the Bible HEAL you when you are sick or wounded?** (Students respond.)
7. **How might the Bible ENCOURAGE you when you are afraid?** (Students respond.)
8. **How might the Bible SHOW you things you could not see with your own eyes?** (Students respond.)
9. **Why is it important to open and read God's Word to you every day?** (Students respond.)

The Bible is the most valuable treasure you will ever have, because reading each day can bring you closer to God and to others. It can GUIDE, COMFORT, and ENCOURAGE you. It can PROTECT your heart and mind from evil, and HEAL your heart and mind. It can SHOW you the teachings, the stories, and the secrets of God.

THE WAY *continued...*

SHARE YOUR STORY: GOD'S WORD SPEAKS TO ME

Purpose: For a leader or helper to share and illustrate a personal testimony (in age-appropriate terms) of how a story or Bible teaching brought him or her closer to God and to others.

Supplies: Supplies from the ILLUSTRATION: OPEN THE PACKAGE. Mark in your Bible on or more favorite Bible verses or Bible stories that have guided, comforted, protected, healed, encouraged or showed you something about God, yourself or others.

Leader Tip: If you aren't sure which verse to choose, you may find verses that fit in Psalm 23.

Directions: The leader or a helper shares a brief personal testimony (in age-appropriate terms) while visually illustrating how a story or teaching from the Bible has affected his or her relationship with God or with others. Be sure to display one or more of the visuals from the first package to illustrate the verses you have chosen. See the options below. You can choose one or more of these statements to share your story.

- **God's Word has guided me:** Read or recite a verse that has guided you on the path in your walk with God.
Visual: While you are speaking, display the flashlight.
- **God's Word has comforted me:** Read or recite a verse that has comforted you when you were feeling sad or alone.
Visual: While you are speaking, display the family photo.
- **God's Word has protected me:** Read or recite a verse that has protected you in some way, perhaps from discouragement, wrong thinking, or wrong doing.
Visual: While you are speaking, display the bug spray.
- **God's Word has healed me:** Read or recite a verse that has brought healing to your heart, soul, mind, body, or attitude.
Visual: While you are speaking, display the bandage strips.
- **God's Word has encouraged me:** Read or recite a verse that has encouraged you when you were afraid or worried.
Visual: While you are speaking, display the blanket.
- **God's Word has shown me something new:** Read or recite a verse that has shown you something new about God, yourself, or others.
Visual: While you are speaking, display the binoculars.

CHALLENGE: MAKING A PLAN

Purpose: To help students and mentors evaluate their relationship with God.

Supplies: None

Students have 60 seconds to brainstorm with their mentor or one another the best time of day and the best place for them to read a Bible promise or a Bible story each day. When time is up, invite the students to share their plan for where and when they plan to read the Bible each day.

THE WAY *continued...*



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

FINAL FIVE MINUTES

CLOSING PRAYER

Invite everyone to pray (aloud) sentence prayers of praise and requests. Conclude with praying the Lord's Prayer together (Matthew 6:9-13).

Have students share their prayer requests and praises. The leader prays for the prayer requests and praises.

In closing, let's pray the prayer that Jesus Himself taught us to pray. Choose the version of The Lord's Prayer that is most familiar to your group. Lead students and mentors in The Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13 with the doxology):

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name,
Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.
For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

*The word debts/debtor is use in most Bible versions including ESV, KJV, NASV, and NIV. You may choose more familiar wording such as "trespasses"/"sins," and "those who trespass/sin against us."

DAILY STEPS

Distribute the *Daily Steps: Step 2* take-home devotional or be sure students and mentors know where to find it in their journals.

Each day this week, use DAILY STEPS to guide you in your personal devotional time with God. Bring your journal with you next time we meet. We will begin by sharing what you learned during your devotional times.

Dismiss students or enjoy a relationship-building activity such as a meal or a game.



If time remains, choose from the connected activities below.

GOT TIME?

SHARING STORIES: GOD'S WORD SPEAKS TO ME

If time allows, invite mentors to turn to their young disciples and, using simplified age-appropriate terms, briefly share an example of how a story or a Bible teaching brought him or her closer to God or to others. Then the young disciples may share a similar experience with their mentors. If there is not enough time to complete this activity, encourage mentors to find time during the week with their young disciples to share.

Each pair of students and mentors choose one of the statements below and discuss it together.

- **God's Word has guided me:** In age-appropriate terms, read or recite a verse that has guided you on the path in your walk with God.
- **God's Word has comforted me:** In age-appropriate terms, read or recite a verse that has comforted you when you were feeling sad or alone.
- **God's Word has protected me:** In age-appropriate terms, read or recite a verse that has protected you in some way, perhaps from discouragement, wrong thinking, or wrong doing.
- **God's Word has healed me:** In age-appropriate terms, read or recite a verse that has brought healing to your heart, soul, mind, body, or attitude.
- **God's Word has encouraged me:** In age-appropriate terms, read or recite a verse that has encouraged you when you were afraid or worried.
- **God's Word has shown me something new:** In age-appropriate terms, read or recite a verse that has shown you something new about God, yourself, or others.



BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD,
"plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.
Then you will call on Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you.
You will seek Me and find Me when you seek Me with all your heart." Jeremiah 29:11-13

ACTIVITY: WORD PUZZLE

Purpose: Students memorize the Bible Memory Verses.

Supplies: Bible, large sheets of paper

Prepare: Print the first 31 words of Jeremiah 29:11-13 (Puzzle 1 below) in large print on a large sheet of paper. Using the entire sheet of paper, cut out each word separately as puzzle pieces in various shapes. Create a second puzzle with the last 31 words of Jeremiah 29:11-13 (Puzzle 2 below).

- Puzzle 1: "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you..."
- Puzzle 2: "will call on Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. You will seek Me and find Me when you seek Me with all your heart."

Directions:

1. Divide students with their mentors into two teams.
2. Divide the Puzzle 1 pieces amongst the members of Team 1. Divide the Puzzle 2 pieces amongst the members of Team 2.
3. On your signal, each team works together to connect all the pieces of their puzzle to show the words in the correct order. The first team to finish is the winner.

GOT TIME? *continued...*

ACTIVITY: WALKING ON THE WORD

Purpose: Students will memorize the Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: 2 Bibles or a poster with the Bible Memory Verse, sturdy paper, *Walking on the Word Footprints* (available in Leader's Guide Resources), large heart cut from poster board, Bible Memory Verse Song "You Will Seek Me"

Optional: Laminate the paper footprints to protect them from tearing or substitute scrap linoleum flooring for the sturdy paper. To simplify this game for beginning readers, add symbols or pictures on the footprints or assign a helper to each team to read the phrases. To increase the degree of difficulty, create a footprint for each word instead of each phrase.

In our Bible Memory Verse, God tells us that He has a good plan for our lives and promises we will find Him when we seek Him. That's good news! In this game, team members will work together to place the footprints in the right order. You may use a Bible. Place the last footprint near the heart. When all the footprints are in order, have each member take a turn stepping on the footprints while saying the phrases until he or she has reached the heart. The first team to have everyone recite the verse and step on the heart wins.

Directions:

1. Designate a starting line for each team at one end of the play area.
2. Place the heart at the other end of the play area.
3. Divide the students into two teams. Have teams line up behind their starting line.
4. Mix up each set of 25 footprints. Give each team a set.
5. Play the Bible Memory Verse Song as background music.
6. On your signal, teams race to place the footprints in the correct order in a path from their starting line to the heart.
7. When the footprints are in the correct order, each team member steps on the footprints, saying each phrase aloud, until they reach the heart.
8. The first team to have everyone recite the verse and step on the heart wins.



Leader's Guide **Young Disciples Step 2** **Living as Disciples** **Session 2**

Praying

Session Aim: To learn how to use the Lord's Prayer* as a daily prayer guide.

Step 2: Living as a Disciple			
	Session	Aim	Scripture References
1	Reading the Bible	To understand the value of studying God's Word.	Psalms 119:105; Deuteronomy 6:5-9; 2 Peter 1:16-21; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; Hebrews 4:12
2	Praying*	To learn how to use the Lord's Prayer as a guide for daily prayer.	Matthew 6:5-15; 1 Chronicles 29:11; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18; 1 John 1:9
3	Living Generously	To understand the importance of generosity.	2 Corinthians 9:6-8, 12-15; Malachi 3:10; Acts 2:32-35; 1 Timothy 6:17-19; Matthew 6:20-21
4	Serving Others	To learn how God has gifted us to serve others.	Matthew 4:18-20; 22:35-40; Luke 10:41-42; John 8:7-11; 11:32-35; 2 Corinthians 8:9; Philippians 2:6-8
5	Being in Community	To learn key components of a thriving Christian community.	John 13:34-35; Acts 2:42-47; 1 Corinthians 13:4-7; Colossians 3:12-17
6	Worshipping	To understand what it means to live a life of worship and to partake in Holy Communion together.	Psalms 100; Luke 10:27; Matthew 26:26-28; Hebrews 9:15; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

*Prior to this session, choose the version of The Lord's Prayer that is most familiar to your group, and use that version consistently throughout the lesson. Some versions use more formal language such as "Thy name" instead of "Your name." Versions also differ on whether they use the word trespasses, debts, or sins.

Step 2 Terms: God's Word, fasting, Body of Christ, disciple, God's family, tithing, Communion, spiritual gifts: prophesying, serving, teaching, encouraging, giving, leading, showing mercy. (For definitions, see the dictionary in the Leader's Manual, Mentor's Journal, and Young Disciple's Journal.)

Step 2 Bible Memory Verses: Jeremiah 29:11-13

How to Use This Guide: Young Disciples is designed to guide students in navigating the foundational teachings of Jesus and the apostles in order to further establish them in their faith as disciples of Christ. Designed for students age nine and older, this study can be adapted to a variety of cultures, types of gatherings, and groups of various sizes. Your group may consist of students and mentors, an individual family, multiple families where parents, grandparents, or caregivers participate in the class with their children, multiple families where an adult leads the children in this study while parents engage in similar topics, or you may use the curriculum in a Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, or other church program.



Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME	Up to 15	Review: Reading The Bible	Students and mentors will need their <i>Daily Steps: Step 2 Session 1</i>
		Opening Activity 1: Close To God	<i>Student Journals, Mentor Journals</i>
		Opening Activity 2: When Did Jesus Pray?	Bag, paper, <i>When Did Jesus Pray? Cards</i> (available in Leader's Guide Resources), 5 blank poster boards or sheets of drawing paper, markers, pencils
THE WORSHIP	Up to 10	Worship Sheet music and recordings for the Young Disciples Song and Bible Memory Verse Songs are available at ResourceWell.org. Scripture References: Matthew 6:9-13	Lyrics are found in the <i>Leader's Guide and Student & Mentor Journals</i> , Bible Bible Memory Verse Songs: "Follow Me" (Matthew 16:24; 4:19) "I Will Listen" (Genesis 28:15) "Search Me, O God" (Psalm 139:23-24) "You Will Seek Me" (Jeremiah 29:11-14) Additional Song Suggestions: "He Who Began A Good Work" by Steve Green "Our Father" by Jared Anderson, Don Poythress "Thy Word" by Amy Grant "Tuombe Mungu" by Eleanor Tracey
THE WORD	Up to 10	Praying: Matthew 6:5-13; 1 Chronicles 29:11; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18	Bible(s) Challenge Scripture: Matthew 6:14-15
THE WAY	Up to 45	Illustration: The Lord's Prayer Guide	<i>The Lord's Prayer Guide Cards</i> (available in Leader's Guide Resources), paper, 7 large blank poster boards, crayons or markers, glue or tape, scissors, craft supplies, old magazines
		Discussion: The Lord's Prayer	Bible(s)
		Share Your Story: Prayer Brings Us Closer to God	Group murals from OPENING ACTIVITY 2: WHEN DID JESUS PRAY?
		Challenge: A New Habit	None
	Final 5	Final Five: Closing Prayer and Daily Steps	<i>Daily Steps: Step 2 Session 2</i> take-home devotional for students and mentors
GOT TIME?	Up to 10	Sharing Stories: Prayer Requests	<i>Young Disciples Journals, Mentor's Journals</i> , pencils
	Up to 10	Bible Memory Verse Activity: Word Puzzle	Bible, large sheets of paper
	Up to 10	Bible Memory Verse Activity: Walking on the Word	2 Bibles or a poster with the Bible Memory Verse, sturdy paper, <i>Walking on the Word Footprints</i> (available in Leader's Guide Resources), large heart cut from poster board, Bible Memory Verse Song "You Will Seek Me"

Session 2: Scriptures on Praying

Step 2 Bible Memory Verses

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord,
"plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.
Then you will call on Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you.
You will seek Me and find Me when you seek Me with all your heart."
Jeremiah 29:11-13

Matthew 6:5-15

"And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask Him.

"This, then, is how you should pray:

"Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name,
Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.'

For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins."

1 Chronicles 29:11

"Yours, Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendor, for everything in heaven and earth is Yours. Yours, Lord, is the kingdom; You are exalted as head over all."

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

"Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."

1 John 1:9

"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."



Praying

THE WELCOME

REVIEW: READING THE BIBLE

Purpose: To remind students of the content of the previous session.

Supplies: Students and mentors will need their *Daily Steps: Step 2* Session 1 take-home devotionals.

Last week, we discovered how reading the Bible is one part of living as disciples of Jesus.

Divide students in groups of two or three to discuss their answers to the following question from *Daily Steps: Step 2* Session 1: **Use your own words to explain the commandment in**

Deuteronomy 6:5-9. In each session, we will learn more about living as disciples of Jesus.

Today, we will learn how praying is another part of life as a disciple.

OPENING ACTIVITY 1: CLOSE TO GOD

Purpose: To share experiences of feeling close to God.

Supplies: *Student Journals, Mentor Journals*

Turn to your mentor or young disciple as your partner. Take a moment share with your partner about an experience, time or place where you felt close to God. Allow 3-5 minutes for partners to share privately with one another.

OPENING ACTIVITY 2: WHEN DID JESUS PRAY?

Purpose: To draw pictures illustrating 5 of the many times Jesus prayed while He was on earth.

Supplies: Bag, *When Did Jesus Pray? Cards* (available in Leader's Guide Resources), paper, 5 blank poster boards or sheets of drawing paper, markers, pencils

Optional: Provide craft materials such as glue and fabric to add clothing, yarn for hair, scissors and colored paper for landscape, or clothing.

Prepare: Print the When Did Jesus Pray? Cards or print each of the following story titles and references on a slip of paper.

- Jesus Prayed Alone Before Important Moments (Luke 6:12-13)
- Jesus Prayed With Others to Give Thanks (Matthew 14:19-20)
- Jesus Prayed For Us and For Everyone (John 17:1, 15, 20-23)
- Jesus Prayed For Himself When Was Troubled (Mark 14:32-42)
- Jesus Prayed For Others During His Suffering (Luke 23:32-34)

The Bible records many times when Jesus prayed for Himself or for others. This bag holds cards with scripture references for 5 of the many times when Jesus prayed. Each team will create a mural of that story and then share it with the whole group.

Directions:

1. Divide the class into 5 groups.
2. One member from each group takes a slip of paper from the bag.
3. Each group gathers in a circle to read the Bible passage on their paper.
4. On a poster board or sheet of paper, each group works together to create a mural to illustrate Jesus praying in that situation. If class time is limited, give groups 5 minutes to work.
5. Have groups show their murals to the large group and briefly tell their Bible story or act it out.



Worship the God who speaks to us

THE WORSHIP

Supplies: Lyrics are found in the Leader's Guide and Student & Mentor Journals, Bible, 8 sheets of paper (standard size or larger). The paper is used in Sessions 2-5 of Young Disciples Step 2.

Prepare: Print one of the 8 segments of the Lord's Prayer below onto each sheet of paper.

1. Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name.
2. Your kingdom come,
3. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
4. Give us today our daily bread,
5. And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.*
6. Lead us not into temptation,
7. but deliver us from the evil one.
8. For Yours is the kingdom, and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.



Today, we worship the God who speaks to us. How does God speak to you? (Students respond.) **One way God speaks to us is through prayer. Jesus taught us how to pray. For centuries, the church has prayed this prayer. It is called The Lord's Prayer.**



God calls us to pray. Praying brings us closer to Him. He has promised that when we seek Him with all our heart, we will find Him. Sing Bible Memory Verse Song: "You Will Seek Me" (Jeremiah 29:11-13).

Sing any song about The Lord's Prayer such as "Our Father," "Tuombe Mungu", etc.

Sing a song that is a prayer or a song about prayer.



Ask students and mentors to face each other. **In this responsive prayer, we will all read segments of the prayer together. After each segment, I will give you a moment with your mentor for each of you to share a sentence prayer related to that segment. This is not only a time of prayer, but a demonstration of how you can use The Lord's Prayer as a guide your prayer time each day.**

THE WORSHIP *continued...*

Before reciting each segment, display the corresponding sheet of paper.

ALL: **Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name.**

LEADER: **God, You are our heavenly Father. Your name is holy.** Ask students and mentors to share with each other a favorite quality you love about God by finishing this sentence: **God, You are _____.**

ALL: **Your kingdom come.**

LEADER: **Show us something about Your kingdom today.** Ask students and mentors to finish this sentence: **God, show me how to put You first when I am _____.**
Examples: At school, with my family, angry

ALL: **Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.**

LEADER: **May things be done now on earth as they are done now in heaven. Guide us in making choices that are pleasing to You.** Ask students and mentors to share choices they are facing by finishing this sentence: **God, guide me in my choices about _____.**

ALL: **Give us this day our daily bread.**

LEADER: **God, You know what our true needs are today. Give us the things You know we truly need to love You well, and love others well today.** Ask students and mentors to pray for a specific need for a friend or family member. They may use this sentence or their own: **God, please give** (family member or friend) (what the person needs).

ALL: **Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.***

LEADER: **We each have sinned today by what we have done or what we have left undone. Forgive each one of us for these sins, and help us forgive others in the same way.** Ask students and mentors to finish this sentence: **Lord, forgive me for _____.** You may wish to have them finish by saying: **Lord, help me to forgive those who have sinned against me.**

ALL: **Lead us not into temptation.**

LEADER: **Keep us far from temptation, so our faithfulness is not tested today.** Ask students and mentors to finish this sentence: **Protect me from being tempted to _____.**

ALL: **Deliver us from the evil one.**

LEADER: **Protect us from Satan's attacks today that make us feel discouraged or left out.** Ask students and mentors to finish this sentence: **Protect me from _____.**
Examples: Wrong thinking, wrong doing or specific sins, those who would do me harm

ALL: **For Yours is the kingdom, and the power and the glory forever and ever.**

LEADER: **All these things are under Your command. It's Your kingdom. You have all the power to answer them, and all credit will go to You!**

ALL: **Amen.**

*The word debts/debtor is use in most Bible versions including ESV, KJV, NASV, and NIV. You may choose more familiar wording such as "trespasses"/"sins," and "those who trespass/sin against us."



Jesus taught us to pray

THE WORD

Purpose: To recognize that Jesus gave us a daily prayer guide in The Lord's Prayer.

Leader Tip: Have a different student read each Scripture passage aloud.



Praying is mentioned more than 360 times in the Bible. It is very important to God that we pray to Him. We can learn about prayer by reading about times that Jesus prayed. By His example, Jesus showed us how to pray in many different situations. Jesus even taught us a prayer we can pray every day. Ask a volunteer to read Matthew 6:5-13.

Most Bible versions translate Matthew 6:12 using the word debt and debtors. Over the years, when praying The Lord's Prayer, the church has chosen different wording for this verse, using "trespasses" or "sins" in place of "debts". All three wordings (debts, trespasses, and sins) point to owing or wronging someone, and they each require forgiveness.

The first century church added a closing praise called the doxology to the end of the Lord's Prayer: "For Thine is the kingdom and the glory and the power forever and ever. Amen." The doxology is similar to an Old Testament passage. Ask a volunteer to read 1 Chronicles 29:11.

Why do you think God wants us to pray to Him? (Students respond.) **What is God's will for us?** (Students respond.) Ask a volunteer to read 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18. **God always hears our prayers. Our prayers are like conversations with God that bring us closer to Him.**

For more advanced students:

This doxology first appeared in the mid to late first century in The Teachings of The Twelve Disciples which was called the Didache (pronounced did-akh-ay'). Pronounce Didache together.

Challenge Scripture: Read and discuss Matthew 6:14-15.



Praying the Lord's Prayer

THE WAY

ILLUSTRATION: THE LORD'S PRAYER GUIDE

Purpose: To help students understand how to use the Lord's Prayer as a prayer guide.

Supplies: *The Lord's Prayer Guide Cards* (available in Leader's Guide Resources), paper, 7 large blank poster boards, crayons or markers, glue or tape, scissors, craft supplies, old magazines

Prepare: Print The Lord's Prayer Guide Cards or print each of the following segments of the Lord's Prayer below on a slip of paper.

1. Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name.
2. Your kingdom come,
3. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
4. Give us today our daily bread,
5. Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.*
6. Lead us not into temptation,
7. Deliver us from the evil one.

Directions:

1. Divide the class into 7 groups.
2. At the top of their poster, each group prints their segment of The Lord's Prayer.
3. Allow 5 minutes for group to brainstorm examples of additional wording they might use to relate that segment to their specific needs and/or praises today.
4. Students print their additional wording below the segment.
5. Students use craft supplies to illustrate their additional wording in some way on the poster. See examples below.

Examples:

Segment 1: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name."

Wording: "Heavenly Father, today we praise you for Your ____."

Illustration: Show symbols of that attribute. For example, if it is "power," then draw lightning, the sun, etc.

Segment 2: "Your kingdom come."

Wording: "Your kingdom is filled with people who put You first. Show us ways we can put You first here today, just like everyone does in heaven."

Illustration: Draw hearts, the number one, clouds of heaven, angels, people worshipping God, etc.

Segment 4: "Give us this day our daily bread"

Wording: "Today, one of our friends needs You to ____."

Illustration: Draw the friend in need receiving help or healing.

*The word debts/debtor is use in most Bible versions including ESV, KJV, NASV, and NIV. You may choose more familiar wording such as "trespasses"/"sins," and "those who trespass/sin against us."

THE WAY *continued...*

DISCUSSION: THE LORD'S PRAYER

Purpose: To help students explore the meaning of The Lord's Prayer.

Supplies: Bible(s)

Leader's Note: This discussion is based on ILLUSTRATION: THE LORD'S PRAYER GUIDE

Discussion questions:

1. **What two words appear more than any other words in The Lord's Prayer?**
(Thine/Your and Us) **How often does the word "me" appear?** (Never.)
2. **What does this tell you about who Jesus wants you to focus on when you pray?**
(The focus is on God and on us, not on myself as an individual.)
3. **How does this focus on God, yourself with others connect to the Greatest Commandment from Jesus: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength. Love your neighbor as yourself"?** (Students respond.)
4. **Why do you think some Christians pray "forgive us our debts" while others pray "forgive us our trespasses" or "forgive us our sins"?** (Students respond.) **All three wordings (debts, trespasses, and sins) point to owing or wronging someone, and they each require forgiveness.**
 - "Debt" refers to money or an apology owed because of wrongdoing.
 - "Sin" refers to doing wrong in God's eyes.
 - "Trespass" refers to wrongdoing in crossing a boundary. One can trespass on purpose or accidentally.
5. **Which word (debts, trespasses, or sins) does your local church, family, or gathering use when praying the Lord's Prayer?** (Students respond.)
6. **Which word is most meaningful to you personally?** (Students respond.)
7. **What do you think Jesus meant when He prayed for our forgiveness as we forgive others?** (Students respond.) Read 1 John 1:9 aloud together.
8. **Why do you think the church chose to add the closing praise (doxology) to the end of the Lord's Prayer?** (Students respond.)
9. **What do the words "For Yours is the kingdom, the power and the glory forever and ever" mean to you?** (Students respond.) **To many people, the closing praise means "Lord, all these things are under Your command. It's Your kingdom. You have all the power to answer these prayers, and all credit will go to You!"**

THE WAY *continued...*

SHARE YOUR STORY: PRAYER BRINGS US CLOSER TO GOD

Purpose: For a leader or helper to share and illustrate a personal testimony (in age-appropriate terms) of how prayer brought him or her closer to God during a set of circumstances or time in his or her life.

Supplies: Group murals from OPENING ACTIVITY 2: WHEN DID JESUS PRAY?

Leader Tip: If you are not sure which verse to choose, consider a verse in Psalm 23.

Directions:

The leader or a helper shares a brief personal testimony while visually illustrating how prayer time has affected his or her relationship with God or with others. Be sure to display the one or more of the visuals from Opening Activity 2 to illustrate the verses you have chosen. (See examples below.) You can choose one or more of the statements below to share your story.

- **Guidance:** In age-appropriate terms, share about a time when you prayed God would give you wisdom for an important choice you needed to make.
Visual: While you are speaking, display the mural of Jesus choosing His twelve disciples.
- **Giving Thanks:** In age-appropriate terms, share about a time when you prayed over a meal thanking God for the way He always provides for you.
Visual: While you are speaking, display the mural of Jesus blessing the boy's meal of loaves and fishes before the disciples distributed it to the large crowd.
- **The Needs of Others:** In age-appropriate terms, share about a time when you asked God to meet specific needs of someone else.
Visual: While you are speaking, display the mural of Jesus prayed for us and for everyone.
- **Courage:** In age-appropriate terms, share about a specific time when God answered your prayer for courage or encouragement.
Visual: While you are speaking, display the mural of Jesus praying in the garden before He was arrested.
- **Forgiveness:** In age-appropriate terms, share about a time when you asked God to forgive an enemy or someone who had mistreated you.
Visual: While you are speaking, display the mural of Jesus on the cross.

CHALLENGE: A NEW HABIT

Purpose: To help students and mentors use the Lord's Prayer as their guide to daily prayer.

Supplies: None

This week, start a new prayer habit. Each day as you pray or read the Lord's Prayer, stop after each phrase and pray in your own words to connect that part of the prayer to something happening in your life. Your Daily Steps take home devotional can help you do this. You can build this daily habit for the rest of your life, to guide your prayers and to present God with your special requests for that day.

THE WAY *continued...*



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

FINAL FIVE MINUTES

CLOSING PRAYER

Invite everyone to pray (aloud) sentence prayers of praise and requests. Conclude with praying the Lord's Prayer together (Matthew 6:9-13).

Have students share their prayer requests and praises. The leader prays for the prayer requests and praises.

In closing, let's pray the prayer that Jesus Himself taught us to pray. Choose the version of The Lord's Prayer that is most familiar to your group. Lead students and mentors in The Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13 with the doxology):

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name,
Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.
For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

*The word debts/debtor is used in most Bible versions including ESV, KJV, NASV, and NIV. You may choose more familiar wording such as "trespasses"/"sins," and "those who trespass/sin against us."

DAILY STEPS

Distribute the *Daily Steps: Step 2* take-home devotional or be sure students and mentors know where to find it in their journals.

Each day this week, use DAILY STEPS to guide you in your personal devotional time with God. Bring your journal with you next time we meet. We will begin by sharing what you learned during your devotional times.

Dismiss students or enjoy a relationship-building activity such as a meal or a game.



If time remains, choose from the connected activities below.

GOT TIME?

SHARING STORIES: PRAYER REQUESTS

Purpose: To share prayer requests be included when using The Lord's Prayer as a daily prayer guide.

Supplies: *Young Disciple Journals, Mentor Journals, pencils*

If time allows, invite mentors to turn to their young disciple and, using simplified age-appropriate terms, share prayer requests with one another. Mentors and Young Disciples write these prayer requests in the space provided in their journals, and discuss how each request connects to one or more of the 7 requests within the Lord's Prayer.



BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD,
"plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.
Then you will call on Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you.
You will seek Me and find Me when you seek Me with all your heart." Jeremiah 29:11-13

ACTIVITY: WORD PUZZLE

Purpose: Students memorize the Bible Memory Verses.

Supplies: Bible, large sheets of paper

Prepare: Print the first 31 words of Jeremiah 29:11-13 (Puzzle 1 below) in large print on a large sheet of paper. Using the entire sheet of paper, cut out each word separately as puzzle pieces in various shapes. Create a second puzzle with the last 31 words of Jeremiah 29:11-13 (Puzzle 2 below).

- Puzzle 1: "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you..."
- Puzzle 2: "will call on Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. You will seek Me and find Me when you seek Me with all your heart."

Directions:

1. Divide students with their mentors into two teams.
2. Divide the Puzzle 1 pieces amongst the members of Team 1. Divide the Puzzle 2 pieces amongst the members of Team 2.
3. On your signal, each team works together to connect all the pieces of their puzzle to show the words in the correct order. The first team to finish is the winner.

GOT TIME? *continued...*

ACTIVITY: WALKING ON THE WORD

Purpose: Students will memorize the Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: 2 Bibles or a poster with the Bible Memory Verse, sturdy paper, *Walking on the Word Footprints* (available in Leader's Guide Resources), large heart cut from poster board, Bible Memory Verse Song "You Will Seek Me"

Prepare: From sturdy paper, cut 25 paper footprints. Create two sets of 25 paper footprints, each with one of the following 25 phrases.

For I know/ the plans/ I have/ for you/ declares the Lord/ plans to/ prosper you/ and not to/ harm you/ plans to give/ you hope and/ a future/ Then you will/ call on Me/ and come and/ pray to Me/ and I will/ listen to you/ You will/ seek Me/ and find Me/ when you/ seek Me/ with all/ your heart

Optional: Laminate the paper footprints to protect them from tearing or substitute scrap linoleum flooring for the sturdy paper. To simplify this game for beginning readers, add symbols or pictures on the footprints or assign a helper to each team to read the phrases. To increase the degree of difficulty, create a footprint for each word instead of each phrase.

In our Bible Memory Verse, God tells us that He has a good plan for our lives and promises we will find Him when we seek Him. That's good news! In this game, team members will work together to place the footprints in the right order. You may use a Bible. Place the last footprint near the heart. When all the footprints are in order, have each member take a turn stepping on the footprints while saying the phrases until he or she has reached the heart. The first team to have every team member recite the verse and step on the heart wins.

Directions:

1. Designate a starting line for each team at one end of the play area.
2. Place the heart at the other end of the play area.
3. Divide the students into two teams. Have teams line up behind their starting line.
4. Mix up each set of 25 footprints. Give each team a set.
5. Play the Bible Memory Verse Song as background music.
6. On your signal, teams race to place the footprints in the correct order in a path from their starting line to the heart.
7. When the footprints are in the correct order, each team member steps on the footprints, saying each phrase aloud, until they reach the heart.
8. The first team to have everyone recite the verse and step on the heart wins.



Leader's Guide
Young Disciples Step 2
Living as Disciples
Session 3

Living Generously

Session Aim: To understand the importance of generosity.

Step 2: Living as a Disciple			
	Session	Aim	Scripture References
1	Reading the Bible	To understand the value of studying God's Word.	Psalm 119:105; Deuteronomy 6:5-9; 2 Peter 1:16-21; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; Hebrews 4:12
2	Praying*	To learn how to use the Lord's Prayer as a guide for daily prayer.	Matthew 6:5-15; 1 Chronicles 29:11; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18; 1 John 1:9
3	Living Generously	To understand the importance of generosity.	2 Corinthians 9:6-8, 12-15; Malachi 3:10; Acts 2:32-35; 1 Timothy 6:17-19; Matthew 6:20-21
4	Serving Others	To learn how God has gifted us to serve others.	Matthew 4:18-20; 22:35-40; Luke 10:41-42; John 8:7-11; 11:32-35; 2 Corinthians 8:9; Philippians 2:6-8
5	Being in Community	To learn key components of a thriving Christian community.	John 13:34-35; Acts 2:42-47; 1 Corinthians 13:4-7; Colossians 3:12-17
6	Worshipping	To understand what it means to live a life of worship and to partake in Holy Communion together.	Psalm 100; Luke 10:27; Matthew 26:26-28; Hebrews 9:15; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

* Continue to use the version of The Lord's Prayer that is most familiar to your group.

Step 2 Terms: God's Word, fasting, Body of Christ, disciple, God's family, tithing, Communion, spiritual gifts: prophesying, serving, teaching, encouraging, giving, leading, showing mercy. (For definitions, see the dictionary in the Leader's Manual, Mentor's Journal, and Young Disciple's Journal.)

Step 2 Bible Memory Verses: Jeremiah 29:11-13

How to Use This Guide: Young Disciples is designed to guide students in navigating the foundational teachings of Jesus and the apostles in order to further establish them in their faith as disciples of Christ. Designed for students age nine and older, this study can be adapted to a variety of cultures, types of gatherings, and groups of various sizes. Your group may consist of students and mentors, an individual family, multiple families where parents, grandparents, or caregivers participate in the class with their children, multiple families where an adult leads the children in this study while parents engage in similar topics, or you may use the curriculum in a Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, or other church program.



Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME	Up to 15	Review: Praying	Students and mentors will need their <i>Daily Steps: Step 2 Session 2</i>
		Opening Activity 1: Offering Box	Small box or large envelope for each child, sturdy paper, note cards, assorted craft decorations, glue or tape, pencils or pens, crayons or markers
		Opening Activity 2: A Taste of Tithing	One or two jars or containers with a lid, colorful ribbon for the jar, small paper cup or napkin for each child, snacks (See activity for ideas.)
THE WORSHIP	Up to 10	Worship Sheet music and recordings for the Young Disciples Song and Bible Memory Verse Songs are available at ResourceWell.org. Scripture References: 2 Corinthians 8:9; 1 Chronicles 29:14	Lyrics are found in the <i>Leader's Guide and Student & Mentor Journals</i> , Bible Bible Memory Verse Songs: "Follow Me" (Matthew 16:24; 4:19) "I Will Listen" (Genesis 28:15) "Search Me, O God" (Psalm 139:23-24) "You Will Seek Me" (Jeremiah 29:11-14) Additional Song Suggestions: "He Who Began A Good Work" by Steve Green "Our Father" by Jared Anderson, Don Poythress "Thy Word" by Amy Grant "Tuombe Mungu" by Eleanor Tracey
THE WORD	Up to 10	Living Generously: 2 Corinthians 9:6-8, 12-15; Malachi 3:10; Acts 2:32-35; 1 Timothy 6:17-19; Matthew 6:20-21	Bible(s) Challenge Scripture: Deuteronomy 14:28-29
THE WAY	Up to 45	Illustration: Love+Money+Time+Treasures	Dry erase board (or chalkboard or poster board) and marker, slips of paper, bag or basket
		Discussion: Opportunities To Be Generous	Set of Offering Cards for each student (available in Leader's Guide Resources), pencils or pens
		Share Your Story: My Offering Box	Personal offering box created in OPENING ACTIVITY 1, set of Offering Cards from DISCUSSION: OPPORTUNITIES TO BE GENEROUS
		Challenge: A New Habit	Offering Reminder card for each student and mentor (available in Leader's Guide Resources)
	Final 5	Final Five: Closing Prayer and Daily Steps	<i>Daily Steps: Step 2 Session 3</i> take-home devotional for students and mentors
GOT TIME?	Up to 10	Illustration: How Does the Church Spend My Tithe?	None
	Up to 10	Sharing Stories: My Offering Box	Personal offering box created in OPENING ACTIVITY 1
	Up to 10	Bible Memory Verse Activity: Word Puzzle	Bible, large sheets of paper
	Up to 10	Bible Memory Verse Activity: Walking on the Word	2 Bibles or a poster with the Bible Memory Verse, sturdy paper, <i>Walking on the Word Footprints</i> (available in Leader's Guide Resources), large heart cut from poster board, Bible Memory Verse Song "You Will Seek Me"

Session 3: Scriptures on Living Generously

Step 2 Bible Memory Verses

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord,
"plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.
Then you will call on Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you.
You will seek Me and find Me when you seek Me with all your heart."
Jeremiah 29:11-13

2 Corinthians 9:6-8, 12-15

6-8 Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.

12-15 This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of the Lord's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God. Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, others will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else. And in their prayers for you their hearts will go out to you, because of the surpassing grace God has given you. Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!

Malachi 3:10

Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test Me in this," says the Lord Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it.

Acts 2:32-35

God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of it. Exalted to the right hand of God, He has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear. For David did not ascend to heaven, and yet he said, "'The Lord said to my Lord: 'Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet.'"

1 Timothy 6:17-19

Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.

Matthew 6:20-21

But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.



Being generous

THE WELCOME

REVIEW: PRAYING

Purpose: To remind students of the content of the previous session.

Supplies: Students and mentors will need their *Daily Steps: Step 2* Session 2 take-home devotionals.

Last week, we discovered how daily prayer is one part of living as disciples of Jesus.

Divide students in groups of two or three to discuss their answers to the following question from last session's DAILY STEPS concerning the phrase, "Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven" from the Lord's Prayer. **Share with your group an example of how something that God wants is more important for the whole world than something you want for yourself. Talk about why doing God's will is important to you.**

In each session, we will learn more about living as disciples of Jesus. Today, we will learn how living generously is another part of life as a disciple.

OPENING ACTIVITY 1: OFFERING BOX

Purpose: To create an offering box as a physical reminder of being generous with our love, time, treasures, and money.

Supplies: Small box or large envelope for each child, sturdy paper, note cards, assorted craft decorations, glue or tape, pencils or pens, crayons or markers

Prepare: Cut a slit in the top of the box.

Options: You may choose to wrap the box in sturdy paper or adhesive paper before decorating. Before class, ask students to bring photos (or drawings) of people they know from your church and/or people they know that don't have a church.

Leader's Note: Be sure that the leader or helper that will be presenting SHARE YOUR STORY: My Offering Box segment uses this opening activity to create his or her own offering box that will be used as a personal illustration in the SHARE YOUR STORY segment.

Today, we will learn about living generously. What can we give generously to show God that we love Him? (Our love, money, time, and treasures.) **What can we give generously to show others that God loves them?** (Our love, money, time, and treasures.)

Let's make an offering box where we can keep our save our money as promise notes to be generous with our love, our time and our treasures.

Directions:

1. On separate pieces of paper, draw pictures or write the names of people you know at your church and people you know who don't have a church. If students brought photos, have them draw pictures or write the names of other people they know.
2. Once you have several pictures or names, attach them to your offering box.
3. Decorate the box using assorted craft decorations.
4. Students put their offering boxes aside. (These will be used later as part of an illustration.)

THE WELCOME *continued...*

OPENING ACTIVITY 2: A TASTE OF TITHING

Purpose: To understand the concept of tithing money to the church.

Supplies: One or two jars or containers with a lid, colorful ribbon for the jar, small paper cup or napkin for each child, large bag of bite-size snacks (About 15 bite size pieces per child.) such as small pretzels, chips, crackers, raisins, grapes, or candies such as jelly beans, Skittles, or M&Ms, etc.

Everything on the earth belongs to God. He provides us with everything we have. Even the money that we earn came from Him and it belongs to Him. Today, this snack stands for the money that God gives us. Since different people earn different amounts of money, I will give each one of you a different amount of snack.

Directions:

1. Ask a volunteer to give each student a cup or napkin to hold his or her snack.
2. Serve ten pieces to some students and twenty pieces to others. If any pieces remain, give children more in multiples of ten.
3. **The Bible tells us that God wants us to give ten percent of what we earn to the church. That's called a tithe. Today this jar stands for our offering to the church. I'm going to pass this offering jar to everyone so we can each put a tithe of our snack into the jar.**
4. Students count the number of pieces in their own cup. Teacher and mentors help students collect 10% of their snack, and place it in the offering jar.
5. **Take a moment now before we enjoy our snack, to be generous with the snack I have given you. If you have more than others, be sure to share so everyone has what they need.** (Students share their snacks.) **You may eat your snack or put even more pieces into the offering jar.**
6. As students enjoy their snacks, ask a volunteer to count the snacks in the offering bowl.
7. **Just as our tithe to the church blesses others, our tithe of candy can bless others too. Let's wrap the jar and give it to someone who works at a church, as a way to encourage them.**
8. As they finish their snack, students discuss who will receive the jar, and plan how to deliver it. If the jar overflows, place those pieces in a second container as a gift for another church worker.



Worship the God who speaks to us

THE WORSHIP

Supplies: Lyrics are found in the *Leader's Guide and Student & Mentor Journals*, Bible, 8 sheets of paper (standard size or larger). The paper is used in Sessions 2-5 of Young Disciples Step 2.

Prepare: Print one of the 8 segments of the Lord's Prayer below onto each sheet of paper.

1. Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name.
2. Your kingdom come,
3. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
4. Give us today our daily bread,
5. And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.*
6. Lead us not into temptation,
7. but deliver us from the evil one.
8. For Yours is the kingdom, and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.



Today, we worship God who speaks to us. Throughout the Bible, God speaks of how He loves us and how we are to love others. One way we love God and others is by living generously. Living generously is being generous with our love, our money, our time, and our treasures. Giving to the church and to others is an important part of living generously as disciples.

Being generous is giving more than what is required or expected. Jesus showed us the best example of living generously. Ask a volunteer to read 2 Corinthians 8:9.

God has been generous in many ways to each of us. Everything we have comes from Him. Ask a volunteer to read King David's prayer in 1 Chronicles 29:14.

Let's take a few minutes to offer sentences thanking God for different ways He has been generous towards us. Students take turns thanking God aloud for specific ways He has blessed them.



God has been generous in His promises. He has promised that when we seek Him with all our heart, we will find Him. Sing Bible Memory Verse Song: "You Will Seek Me" (Jeremiah 29:11-13).

Sing any favorite song about how God generously provides for us.

Sing a song that is a prayer or is a song about prayer.



This responsive prayer was introduced in Session 2. Ask students and mentors to face each other. **In this responsive prayer, we will all read segments of the prayer together. After each segment, I will give you a moment with your mentor for each of you to share a sentence prayer related to that segment. This is not only a time of prayer, but a demonstration of how you can use The Lord's Prayer as a guide your prayer time each day.**

THE WORSHIP *continued...*

Before reciting each segment, display the corresponding sheet of paper.

ALL: **Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name.**

LEADER: **God, You are our heavenly Father. Your name is holy.** Ask students and mentors to share with each other a favorite quality you love about God by finishing this sentence: **God, You are _____.**

ALL: **Your kingdom come.**

LEADER: **Show us something about Your kingdom today.** Ask students and mentors to finish this sentence: **God, show me how to put You first when I am _____.**
Examples: At school, with my family, angry

ALL: **Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.**

LEADER: **May things be done now on earth as they are done now in heaven. Guide us in making choices that are pleasing to You.** Ask students and mentors to share choices they are facing by finishing this sentence: **God, guide me in my choices about _____.**

ALL: **Give us this day our daily bread.**

LEADER: **God, You know what our true needs are today. Give us the things You know we truly need to love You well, and love others well today.** Ask students and mentors to pray for a specific need for a friend or family member. They may use this sentence or their own: **God, please give** (family member or friend) (what the person needs).

ALL: **Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.***

LEADER: **We each have sinned today by what we have done or what we have left undone. Forgive each one of us for these sins, and help us forgive others in the same way.** Ask students and mentors to finish this sentence: **Lord, forgive me for _____.** You may wish to have them finish by saying: **Lord, help me to forgive those who have sinned against me.**

ALL: **Lead us not into temptation.**

LEADER: **Keep us far from temptation, so our faithfulness is not tested today.** Ask students and mentors to finish this sentence: **Protect me from being tempted to _____.**

ALL: **Deliver us from the evil one.**

LEADER: **Protect us from Satan's attacks today that make us feel discouraged or left out.** Ask students and mentors to finish this sentence: **Protect me from _____.**
Examples: Wrong thinking, wrong doing or specific sins, those who would do me harm

ALL: **For Yours is the kingdom, and the power and the glory forever and ever.**

LEADER: **All these things are under Your command. It's Your kingdom. You have all the power to answer them, and all credit will go to You!**

ALL: **Amen.**

*The word debts/debtor is use in most Bible versions including ESV, KJV, NASV, and NIV. You may choose more familiar wording such as "trespasses"/"sins," and "those who trespass/sin against us."



Living generously **THE WORD**

Purpose: To recognize that our generosity pleases God and He uses it to glorify Himself.

Leader Tip: Have a different student volunteer to read each Scripture passage aloud.



Paul encouraged the church in Corinth to be generous in everything.

He explained why it is important to God. Ask a volunteer to read 2 Corinthians 9:6-8, 12-15.

For thousands of years God has commanded that believers give ten percent of what we earn to the church. That ten percent is called a tithe. Why do you think God wants us to give so generously to the church? (Students respond.) **God spoke to His people through the prophet Malachi about their tithing. It is the only time in the Bible when God told the people they could test Him.** Ask a volunteer to read Malachi 3:10. **What do you think it means for God to open the floodgates of heaven and pour out blessings?** (Students respond.)

God wants us to live generously not only by giving our money to the church, but also by giving our love, our money, our time and our treasures as the disciples did in the early church. Ask volunteers to read Acts 2:32-35 and 1 Timothy 6:17-19.

It is hard to be generous when we are focused on gaining things for ourselves. It is easy to be generous when we are focused on the things that last forever. Let's see what Jesus said about that. Ask a volunteer to read Matthew 6:20-21.

For more advanced students:

Challenge Scripture: In Bible times, how was the money tithed to God's house spent? (Students respond.) Ask a volunteer to read Deuteronomy 14:28-29.



Living generously

THE WAY

ILLUSTRATION: LOVE + MONEY + TIME + TREASURES

Purpose: To play a game similar to Charades or Pictionary in order to help students understand how to be generous in all areas of life.

Supplies: Dry erase board (or chalkboard or poster board) and marker, slips of paper, bag or basket

Prepare: On separate slips of paper, print examples of being generous in giving love, money, time or treasures. Write at least one for each student. Place the papers in a bag or basket. Choose examples that are familiar to students such as: Being patient with a younger sibling, cheering for a friend in sports, doing chores, giving a gift, including someone who has been left out, sharing a toy, putting money in a church offering basket, giving away your own ticket to a show or game, giving a favorite item to a child in need, letting others go first, comforting someone who is sad, forgiving someone, not judging someone who is being unkind to you, visiting a sick friend, giving money to a person in need.

Directions:

1. Print four types of giving at top of dry erase board: Love – Money – Time – Treasures
2. First student chooses a slip of paper from the bag.
3. First student either draws a picture of the example or acts it out with his or her mentor.
4. The rest of the class guesses the example.
5. After it is guessed correctly, ask, **"Which type or types of generous giving does this example show?"** (Students respond.)
6. Write the example under the appropriate types of giving (Love, money, time, and/or treasures).
7. Repeat steps 2-7 until each student has had a turn.

DISCUSSION: OPPORTUNITIES TO BE GENEROUS

Purpose: To help students recognize opportunities to live generously in their own lives each day.

Supplies: Set of *Offering Cards* for each student (available in Leader's Guide Resources), pencils or pens

Prepare: For each student, print a set of Offering Cards or print the following on 3x5 note cards:

For You Lord, I give my love. (Add a picture of a heart.)

For You Lord, I give my money. (Add a picture of a dollar sign.)

For You Lord, I give my time. (Add a picture of a clock.)

For You Lord, I give my treasures. (Add a picture of a treasure chest.)

Leader's Note: This discussion is based on the ILLUSTRATION: LOVE+MONEY+TIME+TREASURES.

Discussion questions:

1. **What are some ways you can be more generous with your love?** (Students respond.)
Discuss encouraging, including, comforting, forgiving, supporting, and accepting others.
2. **What are some ways you can be more generous with your money?** (Students respond.)
3. **What are some ways you can be more generous with your time?** (Students respond.)
4. **What are some items or activities that you treasure most?** (Students respond.)
5. **What are some ways you can be generous with those treasures?** (Students respond.)

Give each student child a set of notecards and a pen or pencil. **On the back of each of the four notecards, write or draw ways you can give generously. Keep your notecards in your offering box from our opening activity. Place it somewhere in your home to remind you of the people who might feel God's goodness through your generous giving.**

THE WAY *continued...*

SHARE YOUR STORY: MY OFFERING BOX

Purpose: For a leader or helper who tithes regularly to share and illustrate a personal testimony (in age-appropriate terms) of how God has helped him or her to be generous with his or her love, money, time, and treasures.

Supplies: Personal offering box created in OPENING ACTIVITY 1: OFFERING BOX, set of *Offering Cards* prepared for DISCUSSION: OPPORTUNITIES TO BE GENEROUS

Prepare: The leader or a helper creates his or her own offering box following the directions in Opening Activity 1 and writes a few examples on each of his or her 4 Offering Cards.

Directions: The Leader or helper uses his or her Offering Box and 4 Offering Cards to share a brief personal testimony about living generously.

- Display first Offering Card: For You Lord, I Give My Love. Briefly describe specific ways you can be generous with your love through encouraging, including, comforting, forgiving, supporting, and accepting others.
- In a similar way, display and discuss the remaining three Offering Cards.
- Be sure to describe the nature of the relationships represented by the names and or pictures on your offering box. For example, point to your friend's name on your offering box and then share ways you have been or can be generous in that relationship with your love, money, time and or treasures.
- If possible, include insight about how living generously has shown God's goodness to those touched by your generosity.

CHALLENGE: A NEW HABIT

Purpose: To help students and mentors develop the habit of generosity in all areas of life.

Supplies: *Offering Reminder Card* for each student and mentor (available in Leader's Guide Resources)

Prepare: Print Offering Reminder cards or print or draw the following four symbols on a 2x3 inch card: heart, dollar sign, clock, and treasure chest.

This week, start a habit of giving generously. Keep your Offering Reminder card in a place where you see it often. Start each day by asking God to show you ways you can be generous that day in giving your love, money, time and treasures. Each time you see your Offering Reminder card, let it remind you to be give generously in all things.

Your Daily Steps take home devotional can guide you in ways to live generously. You can build this daily habit for the rest of your life. God will use your generosity to bring others closer to Him!

THE WAY *continued...*



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

FINAL FIVE MINUTES

CLOSING PRAYER

Invite everyone to pray (aloud) sentence prayers of praise and requests. Conclude with praying the Lord's Prayer together (Matthew 6:9-13).

Have students share their prayer requests and praises. The leader prays for the prayer requests and praises.

In closing, let's pray the prayer that Jesus Himself taught us to pray. Choose the version of The Lord's Prayer that is most familiar to your group. Lead students and mentors in The Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13 with the doxology):

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name,
Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.
For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

*The word debts/debtor is used in most Bible versions including ESV, KJV, NASV, and NIV. You may choose more familiar wording such as "trespasses"/"sins," and "those who trespass/sin against us."

DAILY STEPS

Distribute the *Daily Steps: Step 2* take-home devotional or be sure students and mentors know where to find it in their journals.

Each day this week, use DAILY STEPS to guide you in your personal devotional time with God. Bring your journal with you next time we meet. We will begin by sharing what you learned during your devotional times.

Dismiss students or enjoy a relationship-building activity such as a meal or a game.



If time remains, choose from the connected activities below.

GOT TIME?

ILLUSTRATION: HOW DOES THE CHURCH SPEND MY TITHE?

Purpose: To understand specifics on how tithing supports the church.

Supplies: None

If time allows, invite a leader from your church or a local church to explain where the tithe of his or her congregation is spent (care, outreach, missions, building expenses, salaries, etc.). For an example, ask the leader to use a small amount (a dollar, pound, dinar, rupee, etc.) to show how the local church would distribute that amount in its budget. For example, 20 cents of a dollar tithe would go to building expenses, 30 cents would go to outreach, etc.

SHARING STORIES: MY OFFERING BOX

Purpose: To share how God has helped us to be generous with our love, money, time, and treasures.

Supplies: Personal offering box created in Opening Activity 1

If time allows, invite young disciples to turn to their mentors (or to one another) to share how God has helped them to be generous with giving their love, money, time, and treasures. Encourage young disciples to share the nature of the relationships represented by the names and or pictures on their offering boxes. For example, point to a friend's name on the offering box and then share ways to be generous in that relationship with love, money, time and or treasures.



BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD,
"plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.
Then you will call on Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you.
You will seek Me and find Me when you seek Me with all your heart." Jeremiah 29:11-13

ACTIVITY: WORD PUZZLE

Purpose: Students memorize the Bible Memory Verses.

Supplies: Bible, large sheets of paper

Prepare: Print the first 31 words of Jeremiah 29:11-13 (Puzzle 1 below) in large print on a large sheet of paper. Using the entire sheet of paper, cut out each word separately as puzzle pieces in various shapes. Create a second puzzle with the last 31 words of Jeremiah 29:11-13 (Puzzle 2 below).

- Puzzle 1: "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you..."
- Puzzle 2: "will call on Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. You will seek Me and find Me when you seek Me with all your heart."

Directions:

1. Divide students with their mentors into two teams.
2. Divide the Puzzle 1 pieces amongst the members of Team 1. Divide the Puzzle 2 pieces amongst the members of Team 2.
3. On your signal, each team works together to connect all the pieces of their puzzle to show the words in the correct order. The first team to finish is the winner.

GOT TIME? *continued...*

ACTIVITY: WALKING ON THE WORD

Purpose: Students will memorize the Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: 2 Bibles or a poster with the Bible Memory Verse, sturdy paper, *Walking on the Word Footprints* (available in Leader's Guide Resources), large heart cut from poster board, Bible Memory Verse Song "You Will Seek Me"

Prepare: From sturdy paper, cut 25 paper footprints. Create two sets of 25 paper footprints, each with one of the following 25 phrases.

For I know/ the plans/ I have/ for you/ declares the Lord/ plans to/ prosper you/ and not to/ harm you/ plans to give/ you hope and/ a future/ Then you will/ call on Me/ and come and/ pray to Me/ and I will/ listen to you/ You will/ seek Me/ and find Me/ when you/ seek Me/ with all/ your heart

Optional: Laminate the paper footprints to protect them from tearing or substitute scrap linoleum flooring for the sturdy paper. To simplify this game for beginning readers, add symbols or pictures on the footprints or assign a helper to each team to read the phrases. To increase the degree of difficulty, create a footprint for each word instead of each phrase.

In our Bible Memory Verse, God tells us that He has a good plan for our lives and promises we will find Him when we seek Him. That's good news! In this game, team members will work together to place the footprints in the right order. You may use a Bible. Place the last footprint near the heart. When all the footprints are in order, have each member take a turn stepping on the footprints while saying the phrases until he or she has reached the heart. The first team to have everyone recite the verse and step on the heart wins.

Directions:

1. Designate a starting line for each team at one end of the play area.
2. Place the heart at the other end of the play area.
3. Divide the students into two teams. Have teams line up behind their starting line.
4. Mix up each set of 25 footprints. Give each team a set.
5. Play the Bible Memory Verse Song as background music.
6. On your signal, teams race to place the footprints in the correct order in a path from their starting line to the heart.
7. When the footprints are in the correct order, each team member steps on the footprints, saying each phrase aloud, until they reach the heart.
8. The first team to have everyone recite the verse and step on the heart wins.



Leader's Guide
Young Disciples Step 2
Living as Disciples
Session 4

Serving Others

Session Aim: To learn how God has gifted us to serve others.

Step 2: Living as a Disciple			
	Session	Aim	Scripture References
1	Reading the Bible	To understand the value of studying God's Word.	Psalms 119:105; Deuteronomy 6:5-9; 2 Peter 1:16-21; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; Hebrews 4:12
2	Praying*	To learn how to use the Lord's Prayer as a guide for daily prayer.	Matthew 6:5-15; 1 Chronicles 29:11; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18; 1 John 1:9
3	Living Generously	To understand the importance of generosity.	2 Corinthians 9:6-8, 12-15; Malachi 3:10; Acts 2:32-35; 1 Timothy 6:17-19; Matthew 6:20-21
4	Serving Others	To learn how God has gifted us to serve others.	Matthew 4:18-20; 22:35-40; Luke 10:41-42; John 8:7-11; 11:32-35; 2 Corinthians 8:9; Philippians 2:6-8
5	Being in Community	To learn key components of a thriving Christian community.	John 13:34-35; Acts 2:42-47; 1 Corinthians 13:4-7; Colossians 3:12-17
6	Worshipping	To understand what it means to live a life of worship and to partake in Holy Communion together.	Psalms 100; Luke 10:27; Matthew 26:26-28; Hebrews 9:15; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

* Continue to use the version of The Lord's Prayer that is most familiar to your group.

Step 2 Terms: God's Word, fasting, Body of Christ, disciple, God's family, tithing, Communion, spiritual gifts: prophesying, serving, teaching, encouraging, giving, leading, showing mercy. (For definitions, see the dictionary in the Leader's Manual, Mentor's Journal, and Young Disciple's Journal.)

Step 2 Bible Memory Verses: Jeremiah 29:11-13

How to Use This Guide: Young Disciples is designed to guide students in navigating the foundational teachings of Jesus and the apostles in order to further establish them in their faith as disciples of Christ. Designed for students age nine and older, this study can be adapted to a variety of cultures, types of gatherings, and groups of various sizes. Your group may consist of students and mentors, an individual family, multiple families where parents, grandparents, or caregivers participate in the class with their children, multiple families where an adult leads the children in this study while parents engage in similar topics, or you may use the curriculum in a Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, or other church program.



Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME	Up to 15	Review: Living Generously	Students and mentors will need their <i>Daily Steps: Step 2</i> Session 3
		Opening Activity 1: Gifts From God	Paper, 5 gift bags labeled as follows: FEELINGS, TALENTS, PERSONALITY, LIFE, SPIRITUAL GIFTS
		Opening Activity 2: Talents Memory Game	None
THE WORSHIP	Up to 10	Worship Sheet music and recordings for the Young Disciples Song and Bible Memory Verse Songs are available at ResourceWell.org. Scripture References: Psalm 139:13-14; Ephesians 2:10; Matthew 5:16	Lyrics are found in the Leader's Guide and Student & Mentor Journals, Bible Bible Memory Verse Songs: "Follow Me" (Matthew 16:24; 4:19) "I Will Listen" (Genesis 28:15) "Search Me, O God" (Psalm 139:23-24) "You Will Seek Me" (Jeremiah 29:11-14) Additional Song Suggestions: "He Who Began A Good Work" by Steve Green "Our Father" by Jared Anderson, Don Poythress "Thy Word" by Amy Grant "Tuombe Mungu" by Eleanor Tracey
THE WORD	Up to 10	Serving Others: John 8:7-11; Philippians 2:6-8; Matthew 22:35-40; Luke 10:41-42; 2 Corinthians 8:9; Matthew 4:18-20; John 11:32-35	Bible(s)
THE WAY	Up to 45	Illustration: Serving With Spiritual Gifts	Gift bag labeled SPIRITUAL GIFTS, 7 notecards, dry erase board or large poster board
		Discussion: Spiritual Gifts Survey	<i>Spiritual Gifts Surveys</i> , 1 per student (available in Leader's Guide Resources)
		Share Your Story: How I Serve Others	5 gift bags from OPENING ACTIVITY 1
		Challenge: A New Habit	<i>Let Your Light Shine Reminder Card</i> for each student (available in Leader's Guide Resources)
	Final 5	Final Five: Prayer and Daily Steps	<i>Daily Steps: Step 2</i> Session 4 take-home devotional for students and mentors
GOT TIME?	Up to 10	Share Your Stories: Shining Stars	<i>Let Your Light Shine Reminder Cards</i> from CHALLENGE: A NEW HABIT
	Up to 10	Bible Memory Verse Activity: Word Puzzle	Bible, large sheets of paper
	Up to 10	Bible Memory Verse Activity: Walking on the Word	2 Bibles or a poster with the Bible Memory Verse, sturdy paper, <i>Walking on the Word Footprints</i> (available in Leader's Guide Resources), large heart cut from poster board, Bible Memory Verse Song "You Will Seek Me"

Session 4: Scriptures on Serving Others

Step 2 Bible Memory Verses

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord,
"plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.
Then you will call on Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you.
You will seek Me and find Me when you seek Me with all your heart."
Jeremiah 29:11-13

Matthew 4:18-20

"As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, He saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. 'Come, follow Me,' Jesus said, 'and I will send you out to fish for people.' At once they left their nets and followed Him."

Matthew 22:35-40

"One of them, an expert in the law, tested Him with this question: 'Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?' Jesus replied: "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.'" This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: "Love your neighbor as yourself." All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

Luke 10:41-42

"'Martha, Martha,' the Lord answered, 'you are worried and upset about many things, but few things are needed—or indeed only one. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her.'"

John 8:7-11

"When they kept on questioning Him, He straightened up and said to them, 'Let any one of you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her.' Again He stooped down and wrote on the ground. At this, those who heard began to go away one at a time, the older ones first, until only Jesus was left, with the woman still standing there. Jesus straightened up and asked her, 'Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?' 'No one, sir,' she said. 'Then neither do I condemn you,' Jesus declared. 'Go now and leave your life of sin.'"

John 11:32-35

"When Mary reached the place where Jesus was and saw Him, she fell at his feet and said, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.' When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, He was deeply moved in spirit and troubled. 'Where have you laid him?' He asked. 'Come and see, Lord,' they replied. Jesus wept."

2 Corinthians 8:9

"For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sake He became poor, so that you through His poverty might become rich."

Philippians 2:6-8

"Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to His own advantage; rather, He made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!"



Serving others

THE WELCOME

REVIEW: LIVING GENEROUSLY

Purpose: To remind students of the content of the previous session.

Supplies: Students and mentors will need their *Daily Steps: Step 2* Session 3 take-home devotionals.

Last week, we discovered how being generous is one part of living as disciples of Jesus.

Divide students in groups of two or three to discuss their answers to the following question from last session's DAILY STEPS: **Considering love, money, time or treasures, which of these is the easiest way for you to be generous?** Students and mentors discuss. **In each session, we will learn more about living as disciples of Jesus. Today, we will learn how serving others is another part of life as a disciple.**

OPENING ACTIVITY 1: GIFTS FROM GOD

Purpose: This game of charades introduces four of the five ways God gifts us to serve others.

Supplies: Slips of paper (at least one per student or two per bag – whichever number is larger), 5 gift bags labeled as follows: FEELINGS, TALENTS, PERSONALITY, LIFE, and SPIRITUAL GIFTS

Prepare: Set aside the SPIRITUAL GIFTS gift bag for use later in the class. On each slip of paper, write an example of one of the following for students to act out and place it in that bag.

1. FEELINGS gift bag: Examples of things people love.
(Examples: I love puppies. I love to watch movies. I love my shell collection.)
2. TALENTS gift bag: Examples of things people do well.
(Examples: playing guitar, playing soccer, dancing, spelling, math)
3. PERSONALITY gift bag: Examples of personality traits.
(Examples: cheerful, careful, enthusiastic)
4. LIFE gift bag: Examples of things people might experience.
(Examples: going to church, meeting a new friend, winning an award)

Today, we will learn about using our gifts from God to serve others. God has given each of us special gifts that make us different from one another.

God gives us strong feelings about things that are important to us. Display FEELINGS bag.

God gives us talents – things that we do well. Display TALENTS bag.

God gives us our personality – the way we usually act and think. Display PERSONALITY bag.

God gives us the life we live – the things that have happened to us. Display LIFE bag.

In this game of charades, you each will have a turn to choose a piece of paper from one of the four bags. As you act it out or draw it, we all will guess your example.

Directions:

1. Choose a student to pull a slip of paper from one of the bags.
2. The student either draws a picture of the example or acts it out with his or her mentor while the class guesses.
3. The student who guesses correctly draws the next slip of paper or if the student has already had a turn, he or she should choose another child.
4. Continue until at least a few examples are acted out from each bag.

THE WELCOME *continued...*

OPENING ACTIVITY 2: TALENTS MEMORY GAME

Purpose: To learn some the God-given abilities represented in this group of Young Disciples.

Supplies: None

God gives us spiritual gifts. He also gives us natural abilities we call talents. What are some talents God might give us? (Students respond.) **In this game we will learn some of the talents God has given us.**

Directions:

1. Students and mentors sit in a circle.
2. Everyone repeats a clapping rhythm together (clap-clap-snap-snap).
3. While the whole group claps and snaps, the first student says his or her first name and one of his or her abilities. For example: "My name is Marty. I play soccer."
4. Second student repeats the previous student's name and ability, and then states his or her own name and ability. "My name is Joseph. I like to paint. Her name is Marty. She plays soccer."
5. Continue around the circle until everyone has had a turn.



Worship the God who speaks to us

THE WORSHIP

Supplies: Lyrics are found in the *Leader's Guide and Student & Mentor Journals*, Bible, 8 sheets of paper (standard size or larger). The paper is used in Sessions 2-5 of Young Disciples Step 2.

Prepare: Print one of the 8 segments of the Lord's Prayer below onto each sheet of paper.

1. Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name.
2. Your kingdom come,
3. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
4. Give us today our daily bread,
5. And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.*
6. Lead us not into temptation,
7. but deliver us from the evil one.
8. For Yours is the kingdom, and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.



Today, we worship the God who speaks to us. Throughout the Bible, God speaks to us about the way He made each of us to be special and different. Read Psalm 139:13-14.

God speaks to us about the reason He created us. Read Ephesians 2:10.

God even speaks to us about the reason He wants us to do good deeds. Read Matthew 5:16.

God created each of us to do good works that He has already planned for us. Doing good works means serving others. It points others to God. That's why it serving others is an important part of living as Jesus' disciples.



God has given us abilities and spiritual gifts to serve others. He has a plan for the way we are to use those gifts. We must seek God's wisdom and direction as we serve others. He has promised that when we seek Him with all our heart, we will find Him. Sing Bible Memory Verse Song: "You Will Seek Me" (Jeremiah 29:11-13).

Sing any favorite song about how God's plan for us, or about bringing glory to God.

Sing song that is a prayer or is a song about prayer.



This responsive prayer was introduced in Session 2. Ask students and mentors to face each other. **In this responsive prayer, we will all read segments of the prayer together. After each segment, I will give you a moment with your mentor for each of you to share a sentence prayer related to that segment. This is not only a time of prayer, but a demonstration of how you can use The Lord's Prayer as a guide your prayer time each day.**

THE WORSHIP *continued...*

Before reciting each segment, display the corresponding sheet of paper.

ALL: **Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name.**

LEADER: **God, You are our heavenly Father. Your name is holy.** Ask students and mentors to share with each other a favorite quality you love about God by finishing this sentence: **God, You are _____.**

ALL: **Your kingdom come.**

LEADER: **Show us something about Your kingdom today.** Ask students and mentors to finish this sentence: **God, show me how to put You first when I am _____.**
Examples: At school, with my family, angry

ALL: **Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.**

LEADER: **May things be done now on earth as they are done now in heaven. Guide us in making choices that are pleasing to You.** Ask students and mentors to share choices they are facing by finishing this sentence: **God, guide me in my choices about _____.**

ALL: **Give us this day our daily bread.**

LEADER: **God, You know what our true needs are today. Give us the things You know we truly need to love You well, and love others well today.** Ask students and mentors to pray for a specific need for a friend or family member. They may use this sentence or their own: **God, please give** (family member or friend) (what the person needs).

ALL: **Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.***

LEADER: **We each have sinned today by what we have done or what we have left undone. Forgive each one of us for these sins, and help us forgive others in the same way.** Ask students and mentors to finish this sentence: **Lord, forgive me for _____.** You may wish to have them finish by saying: **Lord, help me to forgive those who have sinned against me.**

ALL: **Lead us not into temptation.**

LEADER: **Keep us far from temptation, so our faithfulness is not tested today.** Ask students and mentors to finish this sentence: **Protect me from being tempted to _____.**

ALL: **Deliver us from the evil one.**

LEADER: **Protect us from Satan's attacks today that make us feel discouraged or left out.** Ask students and mentors to finish this sentence: **Protect me from _____.**
Examples: Wrong thinking, wrong doing or specific sins, those who would do me harm

ALL: **For Yours is the kingdom, and the power and the glory forever and ever.**

LEADER: **All these things are under Your command. It's Your kingdom. You have all the power to answer them, and all credit will go to You!**

ALL: **Amen.**

*The word debts/debtor is use in most Bible versions including ESV, KJV, NASV, and NIV. You may choose more familiar wording such as "trespasses"/"sins," and "those who trespass/sin against us."



Using gifts to serving others

THE WORD

Purpose: To recognize that we are to use our spiritual gifts to serve others.

Leader Tip: Have a different student volunteer read each Scripture passage aloud.



God gives us our feelings, talents, personalities, and our life experiences. All of these help us serve others in special ways. God also blesses each of us with spiritual gifts with which we may serve others. Romans 12:6-8 lists seven of these gifts: prophesying, serving, teaching, encouraging, giving, leading, and showing mercy.

Prophesying is seeing and speaking truths from God. The spiritual gift of prophecy is seen in us when we see the difference between what is right and wrong in God's eyes, and to tell it others. This gift is seen in Jesus' life when the religious leaders planned to throw stones at a woman because she had sinned. Jesus told the leaders and the woman what was right in God's eyes. Ask a volunteer to read John 8:7-11.

The spiritual gift of serving is seen in us when we meet the practical needs of others. Jesus healed the sick, fed the crowd, washed the disciples' feet, and more. The best example is when Jesus gave His life to become the physical sacrifice needed for the forgiveness of our sins. Ask a volunteer to read Philippians 2:6-8.

The spiritual gift of teaching is seen in us when we teach truth to others. One example of this gift in Jesus is when He summed up the entire Old Testament in just a few words. Ask a volunteer to read Matthew 22:35-40.

The spiritual gift of encouraging is seen in us when we urge others to apply the scriptures to their lives. Jesus did this when He was a guest at Martha and Mary's home. He encouraged Martha to focus on the most important things. Ask a volunteer to read Luke 10:41-42.

The spiritual gift of giving is seen in us when we joyfully share the time, talents, and money that God gives us. This gift is seen in Jesus when He left His throne in heaven to give His life for us that we would have life forever close with God the Father. Ask a volunteer to read 2 Corinthians 8:9.

The spiritual gift of leading is seen in us when we organize and lead others for God's work. We see this gift in Jesus is when He chose His twelve disciples. Ask a volunteer to read Matthew 4:18-20.

The spiritual gift of showing mercy (kindness) is seen in us when we feel deeply the pain of others and care for their hurts. This gift is seen in Jesus life when He spoke with His friend Mary after her brother Lazarus died. Ask a volunteer to read John 11:32-35.



Serving others

THE WAY

ILLUSTRATION: SERVING WITH SPIRITUAL GIFTS

Purpose: This game of charades introduces seven of the spiritual gifts God gives us to serve others.

Supplies: Gift bag labeled SPIRITUAL GIFTS, 7 notecards, dry erase board or large poster board

Prepare: Print the following spiritual gifts on a dry erase board or poster board: Prophesying (Seeing and speaking God's truth), Serving, Teaching, Encouraging, Giving, Leading, Showing Mercy (Kindness). Print each of the following definitions on a separate card:

The ability to see what is right and wrong in God's eyes, and speak that truth to others.

The ability to see the needs of others and provide for them by doing something.

The ability to explain the truth found in God's Word so that others can understand it.

The ability to challenge and inspire others to be their very best for God.

The ability to joyfully share with others the resources of time, talents, and money that God gives.

The ability to lead and organize others for God's work.

The ability to feel deeply the pain of others and care for their hurts.

Place the seven definition cards in the SPIRITUAL GIFTS gift bag.

Directions:

1. One student chooses a definition card from the SPIRITUAL GIFTS gift bag.
2. Student (or mentor) reads that definition card to the class.
3. All discuss and decide which spiritual gift on the board most closely reflects the definition.
4. Using tape or magnet, student attaches definition card to its corresponding gift.
5. Repeat steps 1-4 until all seven cards are matched with corresponding spiritual gifts on the board. (For the correct matching, see Session 4 Daily Steps in Young Disciples Journal.
6. Point to each spiritual gift, review its definition, and brainstorm examples of using that gift to serve others. Below are some examples you might suggest.
 - Prophesying (Seeing and speaking God's truth): Ask God to open your eyes to see what He sees. Ask God to help you only speak truth when you can do it in a loving way, for loving reasons.
 - Serving: Collect food for a homeless shelter, or gather a team to write letters to soldiers.
 - Teaching: Ask your teacher and the teacher of a younger class to help you plan and teach one activity for that younger class.
 - Encouraging: Help someone you know with his or her project.
 - Giving: Research and get involved in a meaningful service project or a charity.
 - Leading: Look for a way to befriend someone you know that is not usually included by others.
 - Showing Mercy (Kindness): Start a prayer ministry with your friends to share requests and pray for one another.

THE WAY *continued...*

DISCUSSION: SPIRITUAL GIFTS SURVEY

Purpose: To use the Spiritual Gifts Survey as a means to discuss the rewards and challenges that come with each spiritual gift.

Supplies: *Spiritual Gifts Surveys*, 1 per student (available in Leader's Guide Resources)

Directions:

1. Distribute SPIRITUAL GIFTS SURVEY to students and mentors.
2. Leader reads the survey aloud, allowing time for everyone to silently mark his or her own survey.
3. Begin discussion below.

Discussion questions:

1. **Looking at the survey descriptions of prophesying (seeing and speaking God's truth), what might some of the challenges be for someone who uses his or her gift of prophesying to serve others?** (Students respond.) **What might some of the rewards be for serving others by seeing and speaking God's truth to them?** (Students respond.)
2. **Looking at the survey descriptions of serving, what might some of the challenges be for someone who serves others by seeing and providing for their needs?** (Students respond.) **What might some of the rewards be for providing for the needs of others?** (Students respond.)
3. **Looking at the survey descriptions of teaching, what might some of the challenges be for someone who serves others by explaining the truth found in God's Word?** (Students respond.) **What might some of the rewards be for serving others by teaching God's truth?** (Students respond.)
4. **Looking at the survey descriptions of encouraging, what might some of the challenges be for someone who serves others by challenging and inspiring them to be their very best for God?** (Students respond.) **What might some of the rewards be for serving others by encouraging them?** (Students respond.)
5. **Looking at the survey's descriptions of giving, what might some of the challenges be for someone who serves others by sharing time, talents and money that God gives?** (Students respond.) **What might some of the rewards be for serving others by giving time, talents and money?** (Students respond.)
6. **Looking at the survey's descriptions of leading, what might some of the challenges be for someone who serves others by organizing others for God's work?** (Students respond.) **What might some of the rewards be for serving others by leading them?** (Students respond.)
7. **Looking at the survey's descriptions of showing mercy, what might some of the challenges be for someone who feels deeply the pain of others and cares for their hurts?** (Students respond.) **What might some of the rewards be for serving others by caring for them?** (Students respond.)
8. Remind students and mentors: **All gifts from God are good. While it is helpful to understand our own spiritual gift, the most important thing is that we use every gift God has given us (our feelings, our talents, our lives, and our spiritual gifts) to serve others.**
9. Have each student turn to mentor to discuss the student's spiritual gift. Instruct mentors to point out specific and unique ways God has gifted their students, and to discuss exciting ways God may use this gift to serve many people!

THE WAY *continued...*

SHARE YOUR STORY: HOW I SERVE OTHERS

Purpose: For a leader or helper to share examples of how he or she has served others through his or her spiritual gift.

Supplies: 5 gift bags labeled FEELINGS, TALENTS, PERSONALITY, LIFE, and SPIRITUAL GIFTS from OPENING ACTIVITY 1

Leader Tip: Be sure to give the leader or helper sharing his or her story plenty of preparation time in the days before this session. Instruct them to review this Leader Guide and the seven spiritual gifts defined in the Young Disciples dictionary.

Directions:

1. Before class, review this Leader's Guide and the seven spiritual gifts defined in the Young Disciples dictionary. From those seven gifts, choose the gift that best describes your motivation in serving others: Prophesying (seeing and speaking God's truth), Serving, Teaching, Encouraging, Giving, Leading, Showing Mercy (kindness).
2. Point to the SPIRITUAL GIFTS gift bag. Share your story of how you use your primary spiritual gift to serve others. Give specific examples. Describe at least one challenge and reward you have experienced in using your spiritual gift.
3. If time allows, point to each of the remaining 4 gift bags. Share how God has used your specific feelings (interests or passions), talents, life experiences, and personality to help you serve others in special ways.
4. If time allows mention specific ways other have served you with their spiritual gifts.

CHALLENGE: A NEW HABIT

Purpose: To help students and mentors develop the habit of looking for opportunities to serve others.

Supplies: *Let Your Light Shine Reminder Card* for each student (available in Leader's Guide Resources)

Ask a volunteer to read Matthew 5:16. Give each student a Let Your Light Shine Reminder Card.

Take home this reminder to Let Your Light Shine. Put it where you will see it each morning. Let it remind you to ask God each morning, "Lord, how do You want me to serve others today?" Then throughout your day, be looking for God's answer!

Remember that serving is not only meeting physical needs, it is also seeing and speaking God's truth, teaching, encouraging, giving, leading, showing kindness, and much more!

THE WAY *continued...*



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

FINAL FIVE MINUTES

CLOSING PRAYER

Invite everyone to pray (aloud) sentence prayers of praise and requests. Conclude with praying the Lord's Prayer together (Matthew 6:9-13).

Have students share their prayer requests and praises. The leader prays for the prayer requests and praises.

In closing, let's pray the prayer that Jesus Himself taught us to pray. Choose the version of The Lord's Prayer that is most familiar to your group. Lead students and mentors in The Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13 with the doxology):

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name,
Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.
For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

*The word debts/debtor is use in most Bible versions including ESV, KJV, NASV, and NIV. You may choose more familiar wording such as "trespasses"/"sins," and "those who trespass/sin against us."

DAILY STEPS

Distribute the *Daily Steps: Step 2* take-home devotional or be sure students and mentors know where to find it in their journals.

Each day this week, use DAILY STEPS to guide you in your personal devotional time with God. Bring your journal with you next time we meet. We will begin by sharing what you learned during your devotional times.

Dismiss students or enjoy a relationship-building activity such as a meal or a game.



If time remains, choose from the connected activities below.

GOT TIME?

SHARE STORIES: SHINING STARS

Purpose: For students to recognize and appreciate spiritual gifts in others.

Supplies: *Let Your Light Shine Reminder Cards* from CHALLENGE: A NEW HABIT

If time allows, invite young disciples to turn to their mentors (or to one another) to share how someone has served them through one of the spiritual gifts listed on the Let Your Light Shine reminder card. Then discuss how that good deed shines like a star that points others to God in some way.



BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD,
"plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.
Then you will call on Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you.
You will seek Me and find Me when you seek Me with all your heart." Jeremiah 29:11-13

ACTIVITY: WORD PUZZLE

Purpose: Students memorize the Bible Memory Verses.

Supplies: Bible, large sheets of paper

Prepare: Print the first 31 words of Jeremiah 29:11-13 (Puzzle 1 below) in large print on a large sheet of paper. Using the entire sheet of paper, cut out each word separately as puzzle pieces in various shapes. Create a second puzzle with the last 31 words of Jeremiah 29:11-13 (Puzzle 2 below).

- Puzzle 1: "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you..."
- Puzzle 2: "will call on Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. You will seek Me and find Me when you seek Me with all your heart."

Directions:

1. Divide students with their mentors into two teams.
2. Divide the Puzzle 1 pieces amongst the members of Team 1. Divide the Puzzle 2 pieces amongst the members of Team 2.
3. On your signal, each team works together to connect all the pieces of their puzzle to show the words in the correct order. The first team to finish is the winner.

GOT TIME? *continued...*

ACTIVITY: WALKING ON THE WORD

Purpose: Students will memorize the Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: 2 Bibles or a poster with the Bible Memory Verse, sturdy paper, *Walking on the Word Footprints* (available in Leader's Guide Resources), large heart cut from poster board, Bible Memory Verse Song "You Will Seek Me"

Prepare: From sturdy paper, cut 25 paper footprints. Create two sets of 25 paper footprints, each with one of the following 25 phrases.

For I know/ the plans/ I have/ for you/ declares the Lord/ plans to/ prosper you/ and not to/ harm you/ plans to give/ you hope and/ a future/ Then you will/ call on Me/ and come and/ pray to Me/ and I will/ listen to you/ You will/ seek Me/ and find Me/ when you/ seek Me/ with all/ your heart

Optional: Laminate the paper footprints to protect them from tearing or substitute scrap linoleum flooring for the sturdy paper. To simplify this game for beginning readers, add symbols or pictures on the footprints or assign a helper to each team to read the phrases. To increase the degree of difficulty, create a footprint for each word instead of each phrase.

In our Bible Memory Verse, God tells us that He has a good plan for our lives and promises we will find Him when we seek Him. That's good news! In this game, team members will work together to place the footprints in the right order. You may use a Bible. Place the last footprint near the heart. When all the footprints are in order, have each member take a turn stepping on the footprints while saying the phrases until he or she has reached the heart. The first team to have everyone recite the verse and step on the heart wins.

Directions:

1. Designate a starting line for each team at one end of the play area.
2. Place the heart at the other end of the play area.
3. Divide the students into two teams. Have teams line up behind their starting line.
4. Mix up each set of 25 footprints. Give each team a set.
5. Play the Bible Memory Verse Song as background music.
6. On your signal, teams race to place the footprints in the correct order in a path from their starting line to the heart.
7. When the footprints are in the correct order, each team member steps on the footprints, saying each phrase aloud, until they reach the heart.
8. The first team to have everyone recite the verse and step on the heart wins.



Leader's Guide
Young Disciples Step 2
Living as Disciples
Session 5

Being in Community

**Session Aim: To learn the key components
of a thriving Christian community.**

Step 2: Living as a Disciple			
	Session	Aim	Scripture References
1	Reading the Bible	To understand the value of studying God's Word.	Psalm 119:105; Deuteronomy 6:5-9; 2 Peter 1:16-21; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; Hebrews 4:12
2	Praying*	To learn how to use the Lord's Prayer as a guide for daily prayer.	Matthew 6:5-15; 1 Chronicles 29:11; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18; 1 John 1:9
3	Living Generously	To understand the importance of generosity.	2 Corinthians 9:6-8, 12-15; Malachi 3:10; Acts 2:32-35; 1 Timothy 6:17-19; Matthew 6:20-21
4	Serving Others	To learn how God has gifted us to serve others.	Matthew 4:18-20; 22:35-40; Luke 10:41-42; John 8:7-11; 11:32-35; 2 Corinthians 8:9; Philippians 2:6-8
5	Being in Community	To learn key components of a thriving Christian community.	John 13:34-35; Acts 2:42-47; 1 Corinthians 13:4-7; Colossians 3:12-17
6	Worshipping	To understand what it means to live a life of worship and to partake in Holy Communion together.	Psalm 100; Luke 10:27; Matthew 26:26-28; Hebrews 9:15; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

* Continue to use the version of The Lord's Prayer that is most familiar to your group.

Step 2 Terms: God's Word, fasting, Body of Christ, disciple, God's family, tithing, Communion, spiritual gifts: prophesying, serving, teaching, encouraging, giving, leading, showing mercy. (For definitions, see the dictionary in the Leader's Manual, Mentor's Journal, and Young Disciple's Journal.)

Step 2 Bible Memory Verses: Jeremiah 29:11-13

How to Use This Guide: Young Disciples is designed to guide students in navigating the foundational teachings of Jesus and the apostles in order to further establish them in their faith as disciples of Christ. Designed for students age nine and older, this study can be adapted to a variety of cultures, types of gatherings, and groups of various sizes. Your group may consist of students and mentors, an individual family, multiple families where parents, grandparents, or caregivers participate in the class with their children, multiple families where an adult leads the children in this study while parents engage in similar topics, or you may use the curriculum in a Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, or other church program.



Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME	Up to 15	Review: Serving Others	Students and mentors will need their <i>Daily Steps: Step 2</i> Session 4
		Opening Activity 1: Community Charades	Slips of paper, one bag or hat
		Opening Activity 2: Human Knot	None
THE WORSHIP	Up to 10	Worship Sheet music and recordings for the Young Disciples Song and Bible Memory Verse Songs are available at ResourceWell.org. Scripture References: Ephesians 5:19-20; Matthew 18:20	Lyrics are found in the Leader's Guide and Student & Mentor Journals, Bible Bible Memory Verse Songs: "Follow Me" (Matthew 16:24; 4:19) "I Will Listen" (Genesis 28:15) "Search Me, O God" (Psalm 139:23-24) "You Will Seek Me" (Jeremiah 29:11-14) Additional Song Suggestions: "He Who Began A Good Work" by Steve Green "Our Father" by Jared Anderson, Don Poythress "Thy Word" by Amy Grant "Tuombe Mungu" by Eleanor Tracey
THE WORD	Up to 10	Being in Community: John 13:34-35; 1 Corinthians 13:4-7; Acts 2:42-47	Bible(s) Challenge Scripture: Colossians 3:12-17
THE WAY	Up to 45	Illustration: Words Are Like Toothpaste	Tube of toothpaste (or any paste in a tube-like container), paper plate, toothpick or spoon
		Discussion: A Community that Loves	Set of 15 <i>Love Cards</i> for each student (available in Leader's Guide Resources)
		Share Your Story: My Community	None
		Challenge: Including Others	Paper, pencils
	Final 5	Final Five: Closing Prayer and Daily Steps	<i>Daily Steps: Step 2</i> Session 5 take-home devotional for students and mentors
GOT TIME?	Up to 10	Sharing Stories: My Community (If not completed during THE WAY.)	None
	Up to 10	Bible Memory Verse Activity: Word Puzzle	Bible, large sheets of paper
	Up to 10	Bible Memory Verse Activity: Walking on the Word	2 Bibles or a poster with the Bible Memory Verse, sturdy paper, <i>Walking on the Word Footprints</i> (available in Leader's Guide Resources), large heart cut from poster board, Bible Memory Verse Song "You Will Seek Me"

Session 5: Scriptures on Being in Community

Step 2 Bible Memory Verses

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord,
"plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.
Then you will call on Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you.
You will seek Me and find Me when you seek Me with all your heart."
Jeremiah 29:11-13

John 13:34-35

"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are My disciples, if you love one another."

Acts 2:42-47

"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved."

1 Corinthians 13:4-7

"Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres."

Colossians 3:12-17

"Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.



Being in community

THE WELCOME

REVIEW: SERVING OTHERS

Purpose: To remind students of the content of the previous session.

Supplies: Students and mentors will need their *Daily Steps: Step 2* Session 4 take-home devotionals.

Last week, we discovered how serving others is one part of living as disciples of Jesus.

Ask a volunteer to read Ephesians 2:10. Divide students in groups of two or three to discuss their answers to the following question from last session's DAILY STEPS. **Within your groups, share your answer to the following question from Session 4 DAILY STEPS: What do you think might be one of the good deeds God has already prepared for you to do?**

Today, we will learn how being in community is another part of life as disciples. What does the word "community" mean to you? (Students respond.) **A community is a group of people that have something in common. This class is a community. What do we all have in common?** (Students respond.)

OPENING ACTIVITY 1: COMMUNITY CHARADES

Purpose: To identify various communities

Supplies: Slips of paper, one bag or hat

Prepare: On each slip of paper, print the name of one type of a community familiar to the students in your class (e.g. sports team, neighborhood, church group, activity club, group of friends, or regular gatherings). Place the slips in a bag or a hat.

A community might include neighbors from the same neighborhood, players on the same team, members of the same club, students at the same school, or members of the same church. In this game of charades, we will have communities (or groups) of two or more take turns acting out various types of communities.

Directions:

1. Divide class into communities (groups) of two or three students.
2. One community draws a slip of paper from the bag or hat.
3. Give the community a minute or two to plan what they will act out.
4. On your signal, the community works together to silently act out the community printed on their slip of paper while the rest of the class guesses who they are.
5. Play until each community has a turn.

Note: Small groups may choose to have each community take more than one turn.

THE WELCOME *continued...*

OPENING ACTIVITY 2: THE HUMAN KNOT

Purpose: To introduce the concept of community.

Supplies: None

Today, we will learn about being in community. A community is a group of people that have something in common. When everyone in a community works together, they can do great things. Every community faces challenges. Let's divide into groups and face the challenge of untangling the Human Knot!

Directions:

1. Divide the class into groups of 6-12 people. Include mentors and students in each group.
2. Each group stands in a circle, facing the center.
3. Instruct everyone to place their right hand in the middle of the circle and grasp someone else's hand. They may not hold the hand of the person next to them.
4. Then, everyone places their left hand in the middle of the circle and grasps the hand of another person. Again, they may not hold the hand of the person next to them.
5. This creates the Human Knot.
6. On your signal, each group works together as a community to untangle their Human Knot and make a circle according to the following rules:
 - No one may let go of a hand. The chain of linked hands may not be broken.
 - Group members may go over or under each other's arms (or legs) as needed.
 - Groups who finish untangling their Human Knot may help coach another group.



Worship the God who speaks to us

THE WORSHIP

Supplies: Lyrics are found in the *Leader's Guide and Student & Mentor Journals*, Bible, 8 sheets of paper (standard size or larger). The paper is used in Sessions 2-5 of Young Disciples Step 2.

Prepare: Print one of the 8 segments of the Lord's Prayer below onto each sheet of paper.

1. Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name.
2. Your kingdom come,
3. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
4. Give us today our daily bread,
5. And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.*
6. Lead us not into temptation,
7. but deliver us from the evil one.
8. For Yours is the kingdom, and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.



Today, we worship the God who speaks to us. This class has come together as a small community. A community is a group of people with something in common. What do we all have in common? (Students respond.)

Throughout the Bible, God tells us that an important part of living as disciples is being part of a community of believers. All who believe in His Son belong to Him and to His family, the Church. All over the world, the Church gathers in communities. We come together because we belong to Jesus and He has promised to be with us. Ask a volunteer to read Jesus' promise in Matthew 18:20.

When we ask, Jesus fills us with His Holy Spirit. Paul describes what our community looks like when we are filled with the Holy Spirit. Ask a volunteer to read Ephesians 5:19-20.

The Church is the community of believers. It has two holy ceremonies called sacraments that we share together. One sacrament is baptism, which each believer does one time as an outward sign of belonging to Jesus and to the community of believers. The other sacrament is Holy Communion, also called The Lord's Supper. We do this often. Share how often your church offers communion. **It reminds us of who Jesus is and what He has done for us. At our next session, we will learn more about Holy Communion and we will celebrate it together. Be sure to read more about communion in your Daily Steps this week.**



A community of Christians can encourage one another to seek a deeper relationship with God. He has promised that when we seek Him with all our heart, we will find Him. Sing Bible Memory Verse Song: "You Will Seek Me" (Jeremiah 29:11-13).

Sing any favorite song about unity in the body of Christ, which is the Church.



This responsive prayer was introduced in Session 2. Ask students and mentors to face each other. **In this responsive prayer, we will all read segments of the prayer together. After each segment, I will give you a moment with your mentor for each of you to share a sentence prayer related to that segment. This is not only a time of prayer, but a demonstration of how you can use The Lord's Prayer to guide your prayer time each day.**

THE WORSHIP *continued...*

Before reciting each segment, display the corresponding sheet of paper.

ALL: **Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name.**

LEADER: **God, You are our heavenly Father. Your name is holy.** Ask students and mentors to share with each other a favorite quality you love about God by finishing this sentence: **God, You are _____.**

ALL: **Your kingdom come.**

LEADER: **Show us something about Your kingdom today.** Ask students and mentors to finish this sentence: **God, show me how to put You first when I am _____.**
Examples: At school, with my family, angry

ALL: **Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.**

LEADER: **May things be done now on earth as they are done now in heaven. Guide us in making choices that are pleasing to You.** Ask students and mentors to share choices they are facing by finishing this sentence: **God, guide me in my choices about _____.**

ALL: **Give us this day our daily bread.**

LEADER: **God, You know what our true needs are today. Give us the things You know we truly need to love You well, and love others well today.** Ask students and mentors to pray for a specific need for a friend or family member. They may use this sentence or their own: **God, please give** (family member or friend) (what the person needs).

ALL: **Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.***

LEADER: **We each have sinned today by what we have done or what we have left undone. Forgive each one of us for these sins, and help us forgive others in the same way.** Ask students and mentors to finish this sentence: **Lord, forgive me for _____.** You may wish to have them finish by saying: **Lord, help me to forgive those who have sinned against me.**

ALL: **Lead us not into temptation.**

LEADER: **Keep us far from temptation, so our faithfulness is not tested today.** Ask students and mentors to finish this sentence: **Protect me from being tempted to _____.**

ALL: **Deliver us from the evil one.**

LEADER: **Protect us from Satan's attacks today that make us feel discouraged or left out.** Ask students and mentors to finish this sentence: **Protect me from _____.**
Examples: Wrong thinking, wrong doing or specific sins, those who would do me harm

ALL: **For Yours is the kingdom, and the power and the glory forever and ever.**

LEADER: **All these things are under Your command. It's Your kingdom. You have all the power to answer them, and all credit will go to You!**

ALL: **Amen.**

*The word debts/debtor is use in most Bible versions including ESV, KJV, NASV, and NIV. You may choose more familiar wording such as "trespasses"/"sins," and "those who trespass/sin against us.



Being in community

THE WORD

Purpose: To recognize God has designed and called us to be in community with each other.

Leader Tip: Have a different student volunteer to read each Scripture passage aloud.



God designed us to be in community. Jesus gave His followers a command that is the key to being in community. Ask a volunteer to read John 13:34-35.

Paul describes the kind of love for one another that comes from Jesus and His Spirit in us. Ask a volunteer to read 1 Corinthians 13:4-7.

After Jesus returned to heaven, His followers obeyed that command and grew as a strong community of believers. Ask a volunteer to read Acts 2:42-47.

For more advanced students:

Challenge Scripture: Why do you think it is so important for us to love one another? (Students respond.) Ask a volunteer to read Colossians 3:12-17.



Being in community

THE WAY

ILLUSTRATION: WORDS ARE LIKE TOOTHPASTE

Purpose: To understand the effect that words have on relationships and community.

Supplies: Tube of toothpaste (or any paste in a tube-like container), paper plate, toothpick or spoon

One way we communicate love to others is through our words. Kind words can encourage and build up one another; unkind words are hurtful. Opening my mouth and letting words come out is like opening this tube and squeezing the toothpaste out. Open the toothpaste tube and squeeze out all the toothpaste onto the paper plate.

How easy is it to get the toothpaste back in the tube? Use a toothpick, spoon, or your fingers to try to get the toothpaste back in the tube. Continue trying as you finish the explanation. **Spoken words can't be taken back. When I speak unkind words, the damage is done. Even if I apologize, the hearer has already been hurt. Whether your words are encouraging or hurtful, none of them can be put back into your mouth.**

DISCUSSION: A COMMUNITY THAT LOVES

Purpose: To help students recognize daily opportunities to love others in their community.

Supplies: Set of 15 *Love Cards* for each student (available in Leader's Guide Resources)

Give each student a set of cards. **Only God can love perfectly. Although we can't love others perfectly, in a community we can support each other in loving others as He loves us. On your set of cards are the fifteen descriptions of love found in 1 Corinthians 13:4-7. The kind of love described on these cards is the key component for a thriving Christian community.**

Directions:

1. Each student sits with an assigned partner or mentor.
2. Give each student a set of 15 Love Cards.
3. Partners look through the Love Cards to choose one that reminds them of a specific experience when someone showed them that kind of love.
4. Partners take turns briefly describe that experience to each other.
5. Partners review the Love Cards again, this time choosing a card that describes a kind of love that is challenging for the student. (For example, a student who struggles with patience would choose the card: *Love is patient.*)
6. Partners take turns briefly describing a situation when they failed to show that kind of love.

In the large group, brainstorm what a community would look like that loves one another with the love described on all fifteen cards.

THE WAY *continued...*

SHARE YOUR STORY: MY COMMUNITY

Purpose: For a leader or helper to share a personal testimony (in age-appropriate terms) of how God has surrounded him or her with a community of believers who encourage, comfort, and challenge one another in their lives together as disciples of Christ.

Supplies: None

A leader or helper shares a brief personal testimony about his or her community of believers. This community might be a local church, Bible study group, or group of friends who support one another as they live as disciples of Christ.

1. Describe the nature of the relationships (what you have in common) and how you came to join or form that community.
2. Give an example of how the community has encouraged you or others to grow closer to God and one another.
3. Give an example of how you have seen the love of Jesus shared in your community.

CHALLENGE: INCLUDING OTHERS

Purpose: To raise inclusion awareness and to help students and mentors find ways to include others.

Supplies: Paper, pencils

Give each student a piece of paper. **Who is your community?** (Students respond.) **Make a list of everyone in your community. On the back of that paper, make a list of other people you believe God would want you to invite into your community. Ask God to provide you and your community with opportunities to include others.**



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

FINAL FIVE MINUTES

CLOSING PRAYER

Have students share their prayer requests and praises. The leader prays for the prayer requests and praises.

DAILY STEPS

Distribute the *Daily Steps: Step 2* take-home devotional or be sure students and mentors know where to find it in their journals.

Each day this week, use DAILY STEPS to guide you in your personal devotional time with God. Bring your journal with you next time we meet. We will begin by sharing what you learned during your devotional times.

Dismiss students or enjoy a relationship-building activity such as a meal or a game.



If time remains, choose from the connected activities below.

GOT TIME?

SHARING STORIES: MY COMMUNITY

If this activity was not completed during THE WAY, it can be used as a GOT TIME? activity.



BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD,
"plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.
Then you will call on Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you.
You will seek Me and find Me when you seek Me with all your heart." Jeremiah 29:11-13

ACTIVITY: WORD PUZZLE

Purpose: Students memorize the Bible Memory Verses.

Supplies: Bible, large sheets of paper

Prepare: Print the first 31 words of Jeremiah 29:11-13 (Puzzle 1 below) in large print on a large sheet of paper. Using the entire sheet of paper, cut out each word separately as puzzle pieces in various shapes. Create a second puzzle with the last 31 words of Jeremiah 29:11-13 (Puzzle 2 below).

- Puzzle 1: "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you..."
- Puzzle 2: "will call on Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. You will seek Me and find Me when you seek Me with all your heart."

Directions:

1. Divide students with their mentors into two teams.
2. Divide the Puzzle 1 pieces amongst the members of Team 1. Divide the Puzzle 2 pieces amongst the members of Team 2.
3. On your signal, each team works together to connect all the pieces of their puzzle to show the words in the correct order. The first team to finish is the winner.

GOT TIME? *continued...*

ACTIVITY: WALKING ON THE WORD

Purpose: Students will memorize the Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: 2 Bibles or a poster with the Bible Memory Verse, sturdy paper, *Walking on the Word Footprints* (available in Leader's Guide Resources), large heart cut from poster board, Bible Memory Verse Song "You Will Seek Me"

Prepare: From sturdy paper, cut 25 paper footprints. Create two sets of 25 paper footprints, each with one of the following 25 phrases.

For I know/ the plans/ I have/ for you/ declares the Lord/ plans to/ prosper you/ and not to/ harm you/ plans to give/ you hope and/ a future/ Then you will/ call on Me/ and come and/ pray to Me/ and I will/ listen to you/ You will/ seek Me/ and find Me/ when you/ seek Me/ with all/ your heart

Optional: Laminate the paper footprints to protect them from tearing or substitute scrap linoleum flooring for the sturdy paper. To simplify this game for beginning readers, add symbols or pictures on the footprints or assign a helper to each team to read the phrases. To increase the degree of difficulty, create a footprint for each word instead of each phrase.

In our Bible Memory Verse, God tells us that He has a good plan for our lives and promises we will find Him when we seek Him. That's good news! In this game, team members will work together to place the footprints in the right order. You may use a Bible. Place the last footprint near the heart. When all the footprints are in order, have each member take a turn stepping on the footprints while saying the phrases until he or she has reached the heart. The first team to have everyone recite the verse and step on the heart wins.

Directions:

1. Designate a starting line for each team at one end of the play area.
2. Place the heart at the other end of the play area.
3. Divide the students into two teams. Have teams line up behind their starting line.
4. Mix up each set of 25 footprints. Give each team a set.
5. Play the Bible Memory Verse Song as background music.
6. On your signal, teams race to place the footprints in the correct order in a path from their starting line to the heart.
7. When the footprints are in the correct order, each team member steps on the footprints, saying each phrase aloud, until they reach the heart.
8. The first team to have everyone recite the verse and step on the heart wins.



Leader's Guide
Young Disciples Step 2
Living as Disciples
Session 6

Worshipping

Session Aim: To understand what it means to live a life of worship, and to partake in Holy Communion together.

Step 2: Living as a Disciple			
	Session	Aim	Scripture References
1	Reading the Bible	To understand the value of studying God's Word.	Psalms 119:105; Deuteronomy 6:5-9; 2 Peter 1:16-21; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; Hebrews 4:12
2	Praying*	To learn how to use the Lord's Prayer as a guide for daily prayer.	Matthew 6:5-15; 1 Chronicles 29:11; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18; 1 John 1:9
3	Living Generously	To understand the importance of generosity.	2 Corinthians 9:6-8, 12-15; Malachi 3:10; Acts 2:32-35; 1 Timothy 6:17-19; Matthew 6:20-21
4	Serving Others	To learn how God has gifted us to serve others.	Matthew 4:18-20; 22:35-40; Luke 10:41-42; John 8:7-11; 11:32-35; 2 Corinthians 8:9; Philippians 2:6-8
5	Being in Community	To learn key components of a thriving Christian community.	John 13:34-35; Acts 2:42-47; 1 Corinthians 13:4-7; Colossians 3:12-17
6	Worshipping	To understand what it means to live a life of worship and to partake in Holy Communion together.	Psalms 100; Luke 10:27; Matthew 26:26-28; Hebrews 9:15; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

* Continue to use the version of The Lord's Prayer that is most familiar to your group.

Step 2 Terms: God's Word, fasting, Body of Christ, disciple, God's family, tithing, Communion, spiritual gifts: prophesying, serving, teaching, encouraging, giving, leading, showing mercy. (For definitions, see the dictionary in the Leader's Manual, Mentor's Journal, and Young Disciple's Journal.)

Step 2 Bible Memory Verses: Jeremiah 29:11-13

How to Use This Guide: Young Disciples is designed to guide students in navigating the foundational teachings of Jesus and the apostles in order to further establish them in their faith as disciples of Christ. Designed for students age nine and older, this study can be adapted to a variety of cultures, types of gatherings, and groups of various sizes. Your group may consist of students and mentors, an individual family, multiple families where parents, grandparents, or caregivers participate in the class with their children, multiple families where an adult leads the children in this study while parents engage in similar topics, or you may use the curriculum in a Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, or other church program.



Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME	Up to 15	Review: Being in Community	Students and mentors will need their <i>Daily Steps: Step 2</i> Session 5
		Opening Activity: Disappearing Angel	Dry erase board and marker, or chalkboard and chalk, eraser
THE WORSHIP for Session 6 takes place at the close as students, mentors, and teachers worship together and partake in Holy Communion. See this segment after THE WAY.			
THE WORD	Up to 10	Worshipping: Psalm 100; Luke 10:27; Matthew 26:26-28	Bible(s) Challenge Scripture: Hebrews 9:15
THE WAY	Up to 45	Illustration: The Bread and The Cup	Tablecloth, 2 posters, communion elements: plate of bread, chalice containing grape juice, 2 posters
		Discussion: Participating in Holy Communion	None
		Share Your Story: My Life of Worship	None
THE WORSHIP	Up to 10	Worship Sheet music and recordings for the Young Disciples Song and Bible Memory Verse Songs are available at ResourceWell.org. Scripture References: 1 Corinthians 11:23-26	Communion elements (prepared in the tradition of your faith community) Lyrics are found in the <i>Leader’s Guide and Student & Mentor Journals</i> , Bible Bible Memory Verse Songs: “Follow Me” (Matthew 16:24; 4:19) “I Will Listen” (Genesis 28:15) “Search Me, O God” (Psalm 139:23-24) “You Will Seek Me” (Jeremiah 29:11-14) Additional Song Suggestions: “He Who Began A Good Work” by Steve Green “Our Father” by Jared Anderson, Don Poythress “Thy Word” by Amy Grant “Tuombe Mungu” by Eleanor Tracey
	Final 5	Final Five: Closing Prayer and Daily Steps	<i>Daily Steps: Step 2</i> Session 6 take-home devotional for students and mentors
GOT TIME?	Up to 10	Sharing Stories: My Life of Worship (If not completed during THE WAY.)	None
	Up to 10	Bible Memory Verse Activity: Word Puzzle	Bible, large sheets of paper
	Up to 10	Bible Memory Verse Activity: Walking on the Word	2 Bibles or a poster with the Bible Memory Verse, sturdy paper, <i>Walking on the Word Footprints</i> (available in Leader’s Guide Resources), large heart cut from poster board, Bible Memory Verse Song “You Will Seek Me”

Session 6: Scriptures on Worshiping

Step 2 Bible Memory Verses

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord,
“plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.
Then you will call on Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you.
You will seek Me and find Me when you seek Me with all your heart.”
Jeremiah 29:11-13

Psalms 100

Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth.
Worship the LORD with gladness;
come before him with joyful songs.
Know that the LORD is God. It is he who made us, and we are his;
we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.
Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise;
give thanks to him and praise his name.
For the LORD is good and his love endures forever;
his faithfulness continues through all generations.

Luke 10:27

He answered, “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind’; and, ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’”

Matthew 26:26-28

While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, “Take and eat; this is my body.” Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you. This is my blood of the [a] covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.

Hebrews 9:15

For this reason Christ is the mediator of a new covenant, that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance—now that he has died as a ransom to set them free from the sins committed under the first covenant.

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, “This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me.” In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.” For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.



Worshiping

THE WELCOME

REVIEW: BEING IN COMMUNITY

Purpose: To remind students of the content of the previous session.

Supplies: Students and mentors will need their *Daily Steps: Step 2* Session 5 take-home devotionals.

Last week, we discovered how being in community is one part of living as disciples of Jesus. Ask a volunteer to read Acts 2:42-47. Divide students in groups of two or three to discuss their answers to the following question from last session's DAILY STEPS. **Within your groups, share your answer to the following question from Session 5 DAILY STEPS: What might be different about your life if you were in a community where people sold their possessions and gave to anyone that had need?** (Students respond.)

Today, is our final session of Young Disciples Step 2. What has been the most meaningful thing you have learned as we've studied together? (Students respond.)

OPENING ACTIVITY 1: DISAPPEARING ANGEL

Purpose: To play a reverse version of Hangman and identify various hymns or praise songs as one way to worship God together.

Supplies: Dry erase board and marker, or chalkboard and chalk, eraser

Prepare: Create a list of titles of familiar hymns or praise songs. Do not show the list to the students.

There are many ways to worship God everywhere, every day. One way is to sing favorite songs about Him. In this guessing game, you must guess the letters and the title of a hymn or praise song before the angel disappears.

Directions:

1. Count the letters of one of the song titles from the list you created.
2. Draw that number of blanks in a row, leaving an empty space between each word in the title.
3. A few inches above the row of blanks, draw an angel. The number of details you draw on the angel should exceed the number of blanks. Include details such as wings, facial features, halo, robe, hair, etc. For longer titles, draw two angels. (For example, "Amazing Grace" would have 7 blanks, a space, and 5 more blanks. Above would be an angel (or two) with more than 12 details.
4. Students take turns guessing letters in the title. When a letter in the title is guessed correctly, write that letter on the blank(s). When a letter guessed is not in the title, erase one detail from the angel.
5. On their turn, students may guess the name of the song instead of guessing a letter. If they guess incorrectly, erase one detail from the angel. The student who guesses the correct title before the angel disappears is the winner.
6. Play as many rounds as time allows.



Worshiping **THE WORD**

THE WORSHIP for Session 6 takes place at the close as students, mentors, and teachers worship together and partake in Holy Communion. See this segment after **THE WAY**.

Purpose: To recognize that everything we do an act of worship.

Leader Tip: Have a different student volunteer to read each Scripture passage aloud.



God calls us all to live a life of worship everywhere, every day. To worship God is to show Him we love Him. We show God we love Him by obeying His commands. Jesus told us the two greatest commandments. Ask a volunteer to read Luke 10:27.

Obeying these commands is how we worship God. We can also worship God by reading the Bible, praying, giving, serving, or sharing our stories about God. Let's read a psalm of thanks and praise. Ask a volunteer to read Psalm 100.

We are worshiping God when we gather to remember who He is and what He has done. At Jesus' last meal with His disciples, He gave us all a way to remember Him. Ask a volunteer to read Matthew 26:26-28. **Ever since that Last Supper, believers have gathered to remember Jesus by eating bread and drinking juice or wine. We call it the Lord's Supper or Holy Communion. It's another way we worship Him. Today, we will learn more about it and take Holy Communion together.**

For more advanced students:

Challenge Scripture: Why is so much importance placed on the fact that Jesus shed His blood? (Students respond.) **From the days of Moses, the old covenant included God's promise to forgive the sins of the people if the High Priest came to the Most Holy Place in the temple once a year with the blood of sacrificed animals.**

The Law of Moses states that without the shedding of blood, there is no forgiveness. Jesus shed His blood for us so that all who believe in Him would have forgiveness of sins and new life. That is life forever close with God. That is the new covenant. Ask a volunteer to read Hebrews 9:15.



Understanding Holy Communion

THE WAY

ILLUSTRATION: THE BREAD AND THE CUP

Purpose: To understand the symbolism of the sacrament of The Lord's Supper or Holy Communion.

Supplies: Tablecloth, 2 poster boards, communion elements: plate of bread, chalice (cup) containing grape juice

Prepare: Gather chairs around a large table with a tablecloth or plan for everyone to sit in a large circle on the floor. Lay a cloth or low table on the floor and set the communion elements on it. On the first poster, draw a loaf of bread and print: **Jesus said, "This is My body, which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me."** On the second poster, draw a chalice and print: **Jesus said, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of Me."**

Let's sit as we would for a meal together.

Good teachers often use familiar items that the students have in common as symbols to help them understand and remember important ideas. Name some common objects that are familiar to all of us. (Students respond.)

Jesus was the best teacher of all time. He knew we would all need a way to remember Him and so He gave us a way to do that together as a community of believers. Jesus wisely chose an activity that would be familiar to every community in every generation and in every location. What He chose was a meal of bread and wine (or juice).

Directions:

1. Hold up the bread. **Jesus chose bread to represent His body.**
2. Have everyone read the bread poster together: **Jesus said, "This is My body, which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me."**
3. Hold up the chalice (cup). **Jesus chose wine (or grape juice) to represent His blood.**
4. Have everyone read the cup poster together: **Jesus said, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of Me."**

Note: Students stay where they are for the remainder of THE WAY and for THE WORSHIP where they will partake in Holy Communion.

THE WAY *continued...*

DISCUSSION: PARTICIPATING IN HOLY COMMUNION

Purpose: To explore ways to experience God's presence while partaking in Holy Communion.

Supplies: None

Discussion questions:

1. **Why do you think Jesus chose a meal as the way we remember Him?** (Students respond.)
2. **When two or more people gather for a meal together, they eat, they talk, and often they grow closer to each other. How might sharing Holy Communion with other believers help you grow closer to one another?** (Students respond.)
3. **What did Jesus say the bread stands for?** (His body.)
4. **When we eat the bread, what do you think Jesus wants us to remember about Him?** (Students respond.)
5. **Jesus gave His body and His life so that we could be forgiven. During Holy Communion, as we take time to eat the bread, it is a good time to privately confess our sins and ask for forgiveness.**
6. **What did Jesus say the cup of wine or juice stands for?** (The new covenant in His blood.)
7. **Some of us don't like to talk about blood. But we must remember that inside your body, your blood is the good thing that keeps you alive. Blood stands for life! As we drink from the cup at the Lord's Supper, what do you think Jesus wants us to remember about Him?** (Students respond.)
8. **As we take time to drink from the cup, it is a good time to give thanks for the New Covenant – which is the promise of forgiveness and life forever close with God. It is a good time to remember that He will come back one day as He promised.**
9. **How do you think Holy Communion might help you feel God's presence or help you grow closer to Jesus?** (Students respond.)

Note: Students stay where they are for the remainder of THE WAY and for THE WORSHIP where they will partake in Holy Communion.

SHARE YOUR STORY: MY LIFE OF WORSHIP

Purpose: For a leader or helper to share a personal testimony (in age-appropriate terms) of how God has called him or her to live a life of worship everywhere, every day.

Supplies: None

A leader or helper shares a brief personal testimony about his or her life of worship. This testimony should communicate an understanding that worship doesn't just happen during church services. Worship is loving God with the mindset that everything that we do can be an act of worship.

1. Give a personal example of worshiping God through reading the Bible.
2. Give a personal example of worshiping God through praying.
3. Give a personal example of worshiping God through living generously.
4. Give a personal example of worshiping God through serving others.
5. Give a personal example of worshiping God through being in community.
6. Explain why Holy Communion is especially meaningful when you share it with those in your community of believers.



Worship the God who speaks to us

THE WORSHIP (CLOSING SEGMENT)

Teacher Tip: At this time, students, mentors, and teachers will worship and partake in Holy Communion together.

Supplies: Communion elements, supplies from THE WAY ILLUSTRATION: THE BREAD AND THE CUP.

Prepare: Prepare communion elements in the tradition of your faith community.



Sing a favorite song praising God for who He is and what He has done.



Today, we worship the God who speaks to us. Throughout the Bible, He speaks to us, calling us to worship Him. Worship is how we honor Him as the one true God. It's how we show our love for Him.

Jesus gave us a way to come together to remember who He is and what He has done for us. It is called the sacrament of Holy Communion or The Lord's Supper. It's called a sacrament because it is a sacred and holy time; it is an act of worship. Ask a volunteer to read 1 Corinthians 11:23-26.

In Holy Communion, we follow Jesus' instructions by eating a piece of bread and drinking a sip of grape juice or wine.

The bread represents Jesus' body that was given for us. He gave it to pay for our sins so we could be forgiven and have life forever close with God.

Jesus said the cup represented His "blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins." Jesus shed His blood and gave His life so anyone who believes in Him would be forgiven and have life forever close with God.

The worship leader, pastor, or teacher gives instructions on how to partake in communion today. **All who believe in Jesus are welcome to partake in Holy Communion with us today. If you are not ready to take communion today or if you do not yet believe in Jesus as Your Lord, we are glad you are here. We ask that, instead of taking communion, you use this time to think about God and to pray to Him. After we close, I would be glad to answer any questions you have or talk with you more about how you can have a personal relationship with Jesus.**

The worship leader, pastor, or teacher administers communion.



Sing a song about the body of Christ broken for us and the blood of Christ shed for us.

Reading the Bible, praying, giving, serving others, sharing our stories about God, and being in community – all these are ways we worship Him as His disciples and seek Him with all our hearts.

Sing Bible Memory Verse Song: "You Will Seek Me" (Jeremiah 29:11-13).

THE WAY *continued...*



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

FINAL FIVE MINUTES

CLOSING PRAYER

Have students share their prayer requests and praises. The leader prays for the prayer requests and praises.

Close your prayer time with this final prayer:

Heavenly Father, we give You praise and we trust You with our requests. Help us live every day as disciples of Your Son Jesus. Help us point others to Him. Hear us as we pray together the prayer Jesus taught us*:

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name,
Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts*, as we also have forgiven our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.
For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

* Continue to use the version of The Lord's Prayer that is most familiar to your group.

DAILY STEPS

Thank you for being part of this class! This week, in your Daily Steps, you will be reviewing what we've learned in the last six weeks. We have learned that living as disciples includes reading the Bible, praying, living generously, serving others, sharing your story, being in community, and worship. Be sure to read about your next steps as a young disciple. Distribute the *Daily Steps: Step 2* take-home devotional or be sure students and mentors know where to find it in their journals.

Dismiss students or enjoy a relationship-building activity such as a meal.



If time remains, choose from the connected activities below.

GOT TIME?

SHARING STORIES: MY LIFE OF WORSHIP

If this activity was not completed during THE WAY, it can be used as a GOT TIME? activity.



BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD,
"plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.
Then you will call on Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you.
You will seek Me and find Me when you seek Me with all your heart." Jeremiah 29:11-13

ACTIVITY: WORD PUZZLE

Purpose: Students memorize the Bible Memory Verses.

Supplies: Bible, large sheets of paper

Prepare: Print the first 31 words of Jeremiah 29:11-13 (Puzzle 1 below) in large print on a large sheet of paper. Using the entire sheet of paper, cut out each word separately as puzzle pieces in various shapes. Create a second puzzle with the last 31 words of Jeremiah 29:11-13 (Puzzle 2 below).

- Puzzle 1: "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you..."
- Puzzle 2: "will call on Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. You will seek Me and find Me when you seek Me with all your heart."

Directions:

1. Divide students with their mentors into two teams.
2. Divide the Puzzle 1 pieces amongst the members of Team 1. Divide the Puzzle 2 pieces amongst the members of Team 2.
3. On your signal, each team works together to connect all the pieces of their puzzle to show the words in the correct order. The first team to finish is the winner.

GOT TIME? *continued...*

ACTIVITY: WALKING ON THE WORD

Purpose: Students will memorize the Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: 2 Bibles or a poster with the Bible Memory Verse, sturdy paper, *Walking on the Word Footprints* (available in Leader's Guide Resources), large heart cut from poster board, Bible Memory Verse Song "You Will Seek Me"

Prepare: From sturdy paper, cut 25 paper footprints. Create two sets of 25 paper footprints, each with one of the following 25 phrases.

For I know/ the plans/ I have/ for you/ declares the Lord/ plans to/ prosper you/ and not to/ harm you/ plans to give/ you hope and/ a future/ Then you will/ call on Me/ and come and/ pray to Me/ and I will/ listen to you/ You will/ seek Me/ and find Me/ when you/ seek Me/ with all/ your heart

Optional: Laminate the paper footprints to protect them from tearing or substitute scrap linoleum flooring for the sturdy paper. To simplify this game for beginning readers, add symbols or pictures on the footprints or assign a helper to each team to read the phrases. To increase the degree of difficulty, create a footprint for each word instead of each phrase.

In our Bible Memory Verse, God tells us that He has a good plan for our lives and promises we will find Him when we seek Him. That's good news! In this game, team members will work together to place the footprints in the right order. You may use a Bible. Place the last footprint near the heart. When all the footprints are in order, have each member take a turn stepping on the footprints while saying the phrases until he or she has reached the heart. The first team to have everyone recite the verse and step on the heart wins.

Directions:

1. Designate a starting line for each team at one end of the play area.
2. Place the heart at the other end of the play area.
3. Divide the students into two teams. Have teams line up behind their starting line.
4. Mix up each set of 25 footprints. Give each team a set.
5. Play the Bible Memory Verse Song as background music.
6. On your signal, teams race to place the footprints in the correct order in a path from their starting line to the heart.
7. When the footprints are in the correct order, each team member steps on the footprints, saying each phrase aloud, until they reach the heart.
8. The first team to have everyone recite the verse and step on the heart wins.