

MESSAGE BIG IDEA

Apprenticing with Jesus involves reorienting our lives around relationships, including loving people in the world.

SCRIPTURE

John 3:16 and Matthew 9:10-13

POINTS TO KEEP IN MIND

1. In the message, some examples of pretty amazing eight-year-old accomplishments were shared. This icebreaker is a fun way to connect with the introduction to the message.
2. This is an excellent time to learn what causes around the world are important to your group members. You can also introduce them to some causes where they might want to get involved.
3. Sometimes we skim over the full impact of verses like John 3:16 because it has become familiar to us. By reading it with the emphasis on words like “so loved” or “the world” or “only Son,” – it helps us to connect to the full impact of God’s amazing love, as well as the gift and impact of Jesus!
4. It’s often easy to connect with one character or position in a passage of scripture or a story. It often helps us to get the full impact or importance of a passage when we connect our story to different characters in the passage.
5. By pointing people to the B.L.E.S.S. practices and challenging them to figure out a first or next step, we provide our group with an opportunity to live out what we’ve learned.
6. Matthew lost his status with the Romans when he walked away from his tax collector booth. He may have lost some protection too. And following Jesus definitely cost him financially, as tax collectors often added on to the taxes they were collecting for the government to line their own pockets with.
7. We serve best in places where we feel passionate. Frederick Buechner’s quote, “Your vocation in life is where your greatest joy meets the world’s greatest need,” could be applied here.
8. Review the many places and ways that Community Cares makes a difference and encourage your group to get involved!