

# YOUTH LESSON/ACTIVITY ONE

## "DOING GOOD"

by Rev. Ronny Nowell

\*NOTE: This lesson/activity is written as the introduction in a three-lesson set related to Week of Compassion and the special offering emphasis. They can be used for three consecutive weeks, or in a more consolidated format.

**Age** Grades 6-12

**Supplies** Cell phones OR News Articles  
Copies of the "Scripture Hunt" page  
Bibles  
Pens and paper

### Overview

Most Christians seem to think or at least act as if they believe doing good comes naturally. Most Middle School and High School students know better. This lesson will confront the me-first competitiveness of students and help them think about the importance of doing good for others.

## Activity

Have youth get in pairs and make sure each pair has a cell phone (or some news articles to look through if your group has lots of kids without phones). Give them a few minutes to search for stories of someone doing something good. As they search, have them keep track of the number of 'good' stories and the number of 'bad' stories.

After a few minutes of searching, have them report back and keep a running total for the group of stories about doing good and stories about doing bad.

In the event there's an imbalance, point out the numbers for each and say, "Doing good doesn't seem very popular!"

*Depending on your group, this might be a spark for a short conversation about media production and consumption - what's clickbait? why does it work? do negative headlines catch more attention or get higher placement on a page? etc.*

## Scripture Search

Hand out the Scripture Hunt page and have youth work in teams to find all the answers or divide them up and give just a few to each group to search for the answers.

Have groups share what they found and what they think it means. Be prepared for some conversation and questions.

## Wrapping Up

To help your group members think about doing good, ask them each to finish this sentence:

"A good deed someone could do for me is \_\_\_\_\_."

The leader could go first to set the tone. Then challenge them to give a quick reaction response: I'll give you exactly 47 seconds to come up with something you really need in your life! Go!

*Are there needs that were named that could be met by others in the room right now? (...tell me a joke to lift my spirits.' ...get help with my math homework.' ...go see the Beyonce concert movie with me.)*

Turn the activity back on the youth: "A good deed I could do for someone else is \_\_\_\_\_."

The whole point is to connect that sometimes doing good is as simple (and important) as meeting someone's needs! - especially when they've been given the chance to name the need themselves.

Over the next two weeks, we are talking about a ministry of the Disciples church called "Week of Compassion" that meets needs all around the world. Its mission is "to work with partners to alleviate suffering throughout the world, toward the vision of a world where God's people transform suffering into hope." Over the next two weeks we will be looking at how Week of Compassion is doing good and meeting needs and how we can be a part of that mission.

Stories about doing good and meeting needs can be found at [WeekOfCompassion.org/2024](https://WeekOfCompassion.org/2024) - look for 'Mission Moments'.

# SCRIPTURE HUNT

Look up each scripture and fill in the blank.

**Matthew 7:21-23.** "\_\_\_\_\_ " everyone who does good deeds knows Christ; but everyone who knows Christ will do good deeds.

**Psalms 14:1 and Romans 3:12.** What person always does good? \_\_\_\_\_

**Matthew 25:34-40.** When we help feed others, it's as if we've \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus.

**1 Corinthians 3:12.** On the foundation of knowing Christ, doing good is compared to building with gold; but selfish, worthless actions are compared to building with "\_\_\_\_\_."

**Acts 10:38.** Hometown of this man who went around doing good. "\_\_\_\_\_"

**1 Timothy 2:1-2.** What's a good thing you can always do for every-body? "\_\_\_\_\_"

**Matthew 5:16.** Good works are seen like a light that "\_\_\_\_\_."

**Ecclesiastes 9:18.** How many evildoers does it take to mess up something good?

"\_\_\_\_\_"

**Proverbs 3:27-28.** When should you do good to your neighbors? \_\_\_\_\_

**Ephesians 2:10.** Christians are created in Christ to do "\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_."  
(two words)

**1 Timothy 6:17-18.** A rich man does good if he does what? "\_\_\_\_\_"

**Romans 2:10.** What's something you can expect for doing good? "\_\_\_\_\_"

**2 Corinthians 9:8.** When does God help you abound in good works? "\_\_\_\_\_"

**Titus 3:1.** How many types of good deeds should we be prepared to do? "\_\_\_\_\_"

Is it easy or hard to act out **Romans 12:21**? "\_\_\_\_\_"