



Wondering about Service Learning A 10- 15 Minute Discussion

This session has been adapted from the 2016 Practice Discipleship Curriculum on *Wonder*. The full session can be downloaded at www.nemnsynod.org/Discipleship or www.practicediscipleship.org

SESSION DESCRIPTION

Service learning moves service projects and mission trips from one-time events to experiences that open minds and hearts to new ways of thinking and acting. For example, participants might ponder tough questions about poverty in your hometown, notice the incredible artistry within God's creation, or glimpse the wisdom of a senior citizen in a simple conversation.

BIBLICAL FOCUS

James 2:14-26

MATERIALS NEEDED

Bible
Handout

DISCUSSION PLAN

Getting into the Conversation: Why Service?

First, we turn attention to exploring the role of service and mission experiences and the powerful impact they can have on youth and adults.

To begin thinking about this session's topic, ask participants to find a partner and spend 3-4 minutes discussing the following two questions:

- What impact can service experiences have on youth? On adults?
- What role might service and mission experiences play in "opening up" important topics and issues relevant in the lives of youth and adults in today's world?

Invite the whole group together and ask 3-4 participants to briefly share responses or thoughts.

Start wondering about the issues: Don't focus on fixing the problems

Service Learning begins by wondering about the issues and needs around us. Spend a few minutes wondering together about the following questions. Remind participants these might be topics that are difficult to talk about, are controversial, or don't necessarily have an easy answer. (If you need to provide suggestions, you might offer several, such as homelessness, violence, immigration, senior citizens, bullying, racism, terrorism, water shortage, climate change, world hunger, etc. Or, you might suggest they think of major issues talked about in the news recently.) As you wonder together, remember to not judge or make fun of responses.

- What issues do you think or wonder about? What concerns you?
- What controversial issues are being faced in our community?
- What are "hot topic" issues in our nation or world?

There are many issues and topics that need our attention in our community and world. As we close in prayer, let's lift up the issues that were shared and ask God to open our eyes to learn about and respond to the needs we have identified.

Close in prayer.



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