

TREKS



A Handbook for Men Guiding Boys

vol 1.1

Revised Edition



Christian Service Brigade

Wheaton, Illinois • Ottawa, Ontario

Growing Young Men to Serve Jesus Christ

CSB affirms your vision to come alongside boys, impacting a future generation of godly men. Cast a vision for your men to guide boys to Christ for salvation, to God's Word for growth, and to spiritual maturity for service. Follow these steps to get started:

- 1 Look through the introduction of this handbook. Take advantage of every opportunity to motivate boys toward personal development. And please contact CSB with your questions or suggestions.
- 2 Stay focused on a primary goal: "The things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others," (2 Timothy 2:2).
- 3 Pray regularly for CSB Ministries. Ask God to equip each leader impacting boys. Support the movement through volunteer service, local area events, summer camping, and financial contributions. Nearly 70% of CSB income is raised through sacrificial donations from generous donors.
(Take a look at www.csbministries.org/site/donate)

This mentoring handbook is dedicated to the memory of CSB founder, "Uncle Joe" Coughlin (1919-2005), who turned a Sunday School class of sixth-grade boys into a dynamic movement mobilizing thousands of young men who passionately serve Jesus Christ. (Read Joe's bio at www.csbministries.org/site/our_founder)

TREKS

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Vol. 1, No. 1 (revised 2012 edition); published semi-annually, Fall and Spring. President: John Launstein; Editor: Dale Kinkade; Publications Director: B. J. Slinger; Cover Designer: Melissa Underwager. © 2012, CSB Ministries. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be photocopied without permission of CSB Ministries. Scripture quotations are from the The Holy Bible, English Standard (ESV), © 2001 by Crossway. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Mentoring Guidebook: Introducing Treks vol. 1.1

Preview

1 TREK ONE: CHIVALRY07

Help boys develop lives characterized by loving friendship toward those around them. Adventures include:

- | | | |
|----------------|----------------|-----------------|
| • Fellowship | Matthew 7:12 | Fire Building |
| • Compassion | Proverbs 17:17 | First Aid |
| • Authenticity | John 15:12 | Hidden Messages |

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Help boys discover God's word as the ultimate guide for their lives. Adventures include:

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|-----------------|---------------|---------------------|
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Help boys realize the power and effect of God's love in their personal lives. Adventures include:

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Help boys grasp the power of a life driven by prayer. Adventures include:

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| • Priority | Philippians 4:6 | Banner Project |

Introducing Treks ---

Treks is a powerful guide for men that can flex into family devotions or an existing church program, yet is substantial enough to become its own feature.

The purpose of Treks is to empower men in their role of discipling their own sons and in being the spiritual fathers of a whole generation.

Treks uses the power of activity for the specific purpose of building relationships and discipling boys in God's word. Treks is intentional in connecting activities to Biblical concepts and real-life application of these concepts.

Treks connects men to one another in a common mission of intentional discipleship of our next generation, making it an active branch of men's ministry in the church.

Powerful uses: Supplement for a current kid's program to encourage men to get involved... Father & son or father & children discipleship group... Boy's Sunday school... A stand alone group of equipped men discipling boys of the church and/or the community... Think men, think possibilities!

Building young men to serve Christ ---

What an exciting time to live for Christ! Do you sense that God is stirring concerned men who are committed to impacting young boys? Many of these men did not receive faithful, biblical discipleship during their youth. They are eager to provide a solid spiritual foundation for today's boys and are looking for tools to help them succeed.

Our prayer is that young men will grow strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus (2 Timothy 2:1).

We want to help men build discipling relationships with boys. Relationships that help boys grow mentally, physically, socially and spiritually into men of God (Luke 2:52).

That's the excitement of growing young men in Christ. Not only do you see boys accept Christ as Savior, develop new skills, explore new areas in their lives and develop fruitful relationships among themselves and their leaders, but you see men and boys grow in what it means to be men of God and live out those qualities!

Treks meeting features ---

Treks encourages men to build relationships with boys for the purpose of discipleship. Each part of the meeting is designed to assist the discipleship process. *Games* are an important part of getting to know and understand the boys. The *Trek* portion gives men and boys the opportunity to work together- an important catalyst in relationship building for men as well as boys. The *Trek* also allows men to build a strong object lesson into God's word in the *Drive it Home* section. *Story* time backs up the spiritual lesson, and the *Application* section gives opportunity to discuss how the boys can live out the lesson in their own lives.

Boys need adventure and excitement. Treks guides emphasize discovery, seeing and doing, not just hearing. Treks guide men to utilizing activities of discovery to build bridges into God's word. Boys retain far more when they learn by experience, and understand God's word much better when they can connect it to the world around them. With this in mind, the focus of each lesson isn't on how much information a boy gets, but on how much each boy is able to retain and actively apply what he has learned from God's word.

Treks Features

The elements of Treks work together to keep you organized and help you communicate with your boys. Each element is designed to facilitate an intentional discipleship process.

Games (25 min.)

Boys love games. You may only have time for one game, but there are two suggestions; one for larger areas, and one for smaller. Introduce new games for variety, while allowing for favorites. Adapt as needed for small groups of less than ten. Games build relationships among men and boys, and allow men to encourage boys in their strengths, as well as assess the needs of boys and help them.

Trek Activity (25 min.) – *CORE

This is the hands-on activity of the lesson. If possible, divide the boys into smaller groups by grade. A 5:1 or 6:1 boy to leader ration is optimal. Activities involve a craft, science experiment, or another activity. Exploring together is fun and helps build friendships with boys, and will build a great object lesson into God's word.

Drive it Home (5 min.) – *CORE

This object lesson ties to the activity. It uses the activity to help boys grasp the Biblical theme of the meeting. Using the activity to create a bridge into a spiritual lesson creates a learning moment that allows boys to grasp abstract ideas and creates lessons which are easily remembered.

Story (10 min.)

Boys love a good story. Tell a story at the end of the meeting to grab boys' attention. Use the suggested story, or tell your own that will illustrate how the boys can apply the spiritual lesson of the evening. Encourage spiritual growth and Christian character development. Share your faith often. Boys enjoy listening to men they've come to admire and respect.

Application (5 min.) – *CORE

Leave boys with concrete ways to apply the spiritual theme of the evening to their own lives. There is a suggested path of discussion, but the important aspect is for the boys to grasp ways to work out God's word in their everyday lives. *In Father & Son groups, it works great to have the fathers and sons break away to discuss life application together.*

Leaders' Huddle

After each meeting, briefly discuss the meeting and pray for any needs. Build leadership, teamwork and communication. Always look for ways to improve your process of meeting the needs of the boys and leaders. Note any special preparations for next week.

Core Features

*Features marked – **CORE**– represent vital elements of the activity-driven discipleship process. These are the core elements that should be worked into any context that Treks is used. These features are designed to work within a group discipleship process, but may very well be used in a one-on-one process such as a father and his son/s or even his daughter/s.

Treks 1.1 - *Stockade Achievement



**How
Things Work**



**Adventures
in Action**



**Exploring
God's Word**



**Others
and Me**

STOCKADE ACHIEVEMENT *POST CHOICE* GUIDE —————

Meeting 1:	Fire Building	Adventures in Action
Meeting 2:	First Aid	Others and Me
Meeting 3:	Hidden Messages	Others and Me
Meeting 4:	Balloon Race.	Adventures in Action
Meeting 5:	Wax Paper Maze	How Things Work
Meeting 6:	Paper Puzzle Riddle	Exploring God's Word (Story)
Meeting 7:	Paper Airplanes.	Exploring God's Word (Story)
Meeting 8:	Film Canister Rocket.	How Things Work
Meeting 9:	Obedience Can.	How Things Work
Meeting 10:	Peg Jump Puzzle	Adventures in Action
Meeting 11:	Improbable Balance.	How Things Work
Meeting 12:	Banner Project	Others and Me

Recognizing Achievement —————

Each Treks lesson correlates with CSB Ministries Stockade *Builder Trails* and *Sentinel Trails* personal achievement books. For each boy who has completed the group activity of the Treks meeting, sign off the *Post Choice* in the next correlating category of his Stockade *Trails* achievement book.

In addition, each time a boy memorizes the verse of the meeting, sign off a *Post Choice* in the category *Trail Signs*.

Contact your CSB Regional Field Director or CSB headquarters for more information.

TREK 1: Chivalry

Preview

1

FELLOWSHIP

Help boys discover the value of Christian fellowship. Introducing basic fire building skills and principles of fire safety will help illustrate Christian fellowship.

2

COMPASSION

Help boys show compassion to those in need. Introducing basic first aid tips will illustrate compassion toward others in need.

3

AUTHENTICITY

Help boys understand how love is revealed through action. Serving others honors the Lord, develops our character and is a practical way to demonstrate love. An invisible ink activity will help demonstrate revealing love through action.

1

Fellowship

Target

Help boys discover the value of Christian fellowship. Introducing basic fire building skills and principles of fire safety will help illustrate Christian fellowship.

Scripture

“So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.” (Matthew 7:12).

Prep

You will need materials to build a campfire. Wood shavings for tinder, small sticks (or wood split very thin) for kindling, and larger pieces for fuel. This activity assumes that most groups will simply build an example without being able to light the fire, but if your church has a fireplace or a suitable outdoor location, light your campfire and enjoy it!

Games

Ambulance

Divide the boys into several groups of at least four. They line up against one wall. Put mats at the other end of the room.

Each group must carry one member at a time to the mat, leave him there, return to the starting line and carry another member. When only two teammates are left, one rides piggyback on the other. The first group finished wins.

Auto Wreck

The boys sit in a circle of chairs, facing out. Give each player the name of some part of a car (or airplane, boat, rocket, etc.).

Walk around the circle, telling a story. In your story, mention different parts of a car (plane, etc.). As you do, those with the parts mentioned must get up and follow you. When several boys are out of their seats, suddenly shout, “Wreck!” You and the boys scramble for the empty chairs. The one left out becomes the next storyteller.

Trek

Scripture

Introduce Matthew 7:12 by writing it on a chalkboard, dry erase board or by posting it on a large flip chart. Read the verse together. Discuss the benefits and fairness of treating other people the way you would like to be treated. "The Law and the Prophets" refers to the Old Testament; specifically Genesis through Deuteronomy plus the major and minor prophets (Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and Hosea through Malachi).

Read the scripture verse together a few times. Then let volunteers try to say it without looking. Have the group repeat it together after every individual attempt.

The Fellowship of Fire

Safety first

Fire is a tool for specific purposes. It is not a toy. It is very dangerous if handled carelessly. The purpose of teaching fire building skills is so boys can put them to use in a camping setting (with adult assistance). Under no circumstances should boys attempt to start a fire of any kind without adult supervision and permission.

Build campfires in designated places when camping. Established campgrounds provide metal or concrete fire rings. Avoid building fires near tree roots or low-hanging branches. Also build fires away from and downwind from other campsite areas (such as eating and sleeping areas). Pay attention to conditions, as well. During dry periods it is not wise to build a campfire and, in fact, it may not be allowed.

Experienced campers know it is best to build smaller fires just big enough to accomplish their purpose. This is safer, conserves natural resources and keeps the air cleaner.



Why build campfires?

Some campers choose not to build fires at all. They feel strongly about saving trees and keeping the air clean.

Others build fires for several reasons. Cooking over a fire is fun. Fires can provide warmth on cold nights. There is something special about sitting around a campfire with friends. Plus, in some emergency situations, fire building skills could save a life.

If you choose to build a fire when you are camping, have a good reason for building it and make it just large enough to do the job.

There are many types of campfires. Different types of fires are used for different purposes. This meeting deals with two basic types which are often used together: a teepee fire and a log cabin fire.

Parts of a campfire

A successful campfire uses three kinds of material: tinder, kindling and fuel. All three materials are necessary.

Never take wood from live trees. Not only will this damage the trees, green wood does not burn very well.

Tinder

This is the material to which you will hold the match when it is time to light the fire. Tinder can be shavings of wood made with a knife, very small (match-sized) dry twigs, or a small amount of crumpled paper. Birch bark or grape vine bark works great.

Tinder must be very dry and there must be enough to burn long enough to ignite the next material, the kindling. Grass and dry leaves will burn, but probably not long enough to ignite the kindling.

Kindling

This is wood ranging in size from twigs to finger-sized pieces. You can gather sticks or someone with experience using an axe may split larger logs into kindling-sized pieces. The burning tinder will ignite the kindling, which needs to burn long enough to start the fuel.

Fuel

These are larger pieces of wood that will be used to feed the fire as long as the fire is needed.

Building a campfire

Begin by making a small pile of tinder. The amount needed depends on the material used as well as the type and dryness of the kindling. Again, be sure the tinder is dry. Next, make a small teepee out of kindling. Begin with the smallest pieces and gradually add larger pieces. The inside of the teepee must be small enough that flames from the tinder will reach it. Be sure to provide a small opening in the kindling so you can reach the tinder with the match. Do not pack it too tightly or the fire will choke for lack of air.

You may choose to light the fire at this point, before adding the larger fuel. If you do, be sure to have the fuel ready before lighting the fire. Strike the match and be sure it is burning well. Then hold the match to the tinder, possibly lighting the tinder in two or three places.

When you are sure the kindling is going to burn steadily, begin adding fuel. You may build a larger teepee around the one you made with kindling or build a log cabin-style structure around the inner teepee.

A teepee fire tends to burn quickly. It makes a hot, concentrated fire. A log cabin fire is great for lighting up the campfire area and as a meeting point for evening gatherings.

Putting out the fire

Being a good camper means being responsible for the fires you start. Do not leave any fire unattended while it is burning and be sure to put it out completely when you are done with it. Use plenty of water. Stir the ashes until they no longer smoke and are cool enough to touch.

Drive It Home ---

Friendships

If you pull a log out of a burning fire, it may continue to burn for a couple of minutes. But soon, the flame will die out and the log will begin to cool off. (If you are using a real fire, plan on removing one of the logs to illustrate this concept.)

Friendships are that way too. When we separate ourselves from one another, our friendships begin to grow cold. Sometimes, when we are treated poorly, or we treat others poorly it separates us. Christ followers need to spend time together. When we do, we can remind each other how Jesus wants us to live. We can encourage people who are hurting and we can help each other choose to do right. When we do not spend time with other Christians, it is easy to wander from living as a Christian should. Our Christian life begins to cool off. “Fellowship” is a big word that means spending time sharing in interest, activity, feelings, and experience with Christian friends.

When we treat others with kindness, the way we want to be treated, we help create fellowship with Christ followers and share Christ’s love with others.

Repeat Matthew 7:12 together.

Story

“No Place for Jordan”

This story helps boys recognize the power of treating others with high regard

Isaiah did not really blame the other guys for not wanting Jordan on the team. But deep inside his heart, he felt sort of uncomfortable.

It’s really not my fault, Isaiah thought as he walked toward home. I didn’t say anything against Jordan. I don’t even really know him, and I didn’t say he shouldn’t play with us when the other guys said he wouldn’t fit in.

“I didn’t really say anything at all,” Isaiah said half aloud. “Maybe that was wrong. I’m sure Jordan wants to play – wants to be part of our team – but I can’t change the way he is. Besides, I don’t know how to help.”

Then, he remembered the hurt look on Jordan’s face and what looked like tears when he left the playground.

Isaiah walked even slower as he came up to the house on the corner. He saw Jordan sitting on the steps with his chin resting on his hand, his other arm around the neck of his shaggy old dog.

Isaiah waved his hand high above his head. “Hi, Jordan! Hi there, Spike!”

“Hi, Isaiah!” Jordan looked up, his eyes brightening. Holding onto the porch railing, he pulled himself to a standing position. Isaiah could see the bottoms of the shiny leg braces fastened to Jordan’s special shoes.

The big dog leaped up, gave a delighted bark and came bounding down the sidewalk to Isaiah.

“Good boy, good boy, Spike,” Isaiah said, stroking the dog. As he turned away, he hollered, “Well, see ya, Jordan.”

Isaiah jogged across the yard next door and up the back steps. As he opened the door, he could smell the spicy aroma of the pan of cookies his mom was putting on the table.

“Sure smells good, Mom. Okay if I have some?”

“Just a few for now, Honey. Have a glass of milk, too.” She smiled at him. Then, she got a concerned look on her face. “I saw Jordan when he came home from school a while ago. He seemed very lonely.”

"Yeah, I know, Mom. It's just that he's so new in town. He's only lived here a week. Maybe after he's been here a while...." But, Isaiah did not really believe that. He thought about Jordan's handicapped legs and how sometimes he did not seem to speak plainly, especially when he was excited.

"Ya know, Mom, I felt so bad when the guys were choosing teams at recess. I guess because I knew how bad Jordan felt. No one chose him. He was left standing there with the little kids."

"It is good to feel bad when someone else is hurt, Isaiah," his mom said quietly. "Do not be ashamed to be sensitive to other people's feelings. It shows you care about the other person, just like laughing with him when he's very happy would show you're happy for him."

"I wish I could make him happy, Mom. I sure wish he could talk better and run."

"Well, Isaiah, he may never be able to do that. But, you see, his happiness depends more on how people treat him rather than on whether or not he can run."

"You're right, Mom," Isaiah said. Then he grinned. "How about I take some cookies over to Jordan's and play with him?"

"That would be great, Isaiah. I'll put some in a bag for you."

When Isaiah got to his house, Jordan was throwing a baseball against the side of his garage. He pitched it really hard.

"Wow, Jordan, that's terrific! Let's show the guys what you can do tomorrow. They'll find a place for you. I know they will."

Application

Many years ago, people thought that if a person had a handicap, God must be punishing them for being bad. They were cruel to others whose lives were already hard. They must not have considered the kindness Jesus showed to people who were hurting. He never criticized or made fun of them. He did not avoid them either. Jesus treated them just the way he treated everyone else.

- What problems did Jordan have? Why would it be hard for him to run the bases? Is that a reason to not include someone on your team?
- Do you think it is right to treat someone badly just because they cannot do something that comes easy for you?

In some ways, we are all handicapped. We all have some areas in our life with which we struggle.

- How do you want people to treat you in your weakness?
- How does this perspective help us fellowship better with others?

Repeat Matthew 7:12 together.

Leaders' Huddle

Review the meeting and briefly discuss areas that need improvement and how to improve them. Pray for your boys, especially that they will learn to empathize with others.

2

Compassion

Target

Help boys show compassion to those in need. Introducing basic first aid tips will illustrate compassion toward others in need.

Scripture

“A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.” (Proverbs 17:17).

Prep

The first aid information presented here is very basic. Even without first aid training, you can discuss these concepts with your boys. Look it over and be prepared with props, etc.

Option: Invite someone with more experience in first aid to share with your boys, like a medical professional, first aid instructor, a First Responder such as a fire fighter or EMT, etc. Keep time constraints in mind and do not overlook the spiritual connection.

Games

Wrist-Lock Seat Relay

Boys get into teams of at least five. The object is to get the whole team to the other end of the playing area using a “wrist-lock seat” carry. To form the seat, two players grasp their right wrists with their left hands, and then grasp each other’s left wrist with their right hands.

Number the members of each team. On the start signal, #1 and #2 form a wrist-lock seat and carry #3 to the far end of the room. #3 gets off and runs back with #2 to carry #4. #2 remains while #3 and #4 carry #5. The first team to get all its members to the other end of the room wins.

Who Do You Know?

Everyone, including the game leader, puts a chair in a big circle and sits on it. The leader numbers the chairs in clockwise order, ending with his own. This is the “Oh, no!” seat.

The leader starts by saying, “It’s who you know that counts, and I know [say the first name of the boy on your left in chair #1] and [give your own first name]. The boy on your right (with the second-highest number) says the first two names and adds his own. Continue around the circle.

Scripture

How fast can your boys memorize and recite Proverbs 17:17? Say it once, then see if they can repeat it. Recite it together once or twice. Have the boys say it to you. Then you say it, substituting a wrong word. For instance, "A frog loves at all times." Let them correct you. Try "A friend leaves at all times" or "A friend loves all teams" and let them correct you until you get it right. Repeat Proverbs 17:17 together several times.

What is first aid?

You can tell what "first aid" means by looking at the words. First aid is the initial help given to someone who has been injured or suddenly become ill. People can be injured any place: at home, while playing, at school, at work. When someone is seriously hurt, they need help fast. The best help comes from professionals such as emergency medical technicians and doctors, but those people are not usually present when people are injured. First aid is the help that is given before professionals can takeover.



Do something

The most important thing to remember when you are with someone who is suddenly very sick or badly hurt is to take some action. If there are adults present, tell them what you know and ask them to help. If you cannot find anyone to help, call 911. The operator who answers will be very helpful and will tell you what to do. Ask God to help you stay calm so you can talk with the operator and carry out instructions.

There are many kinds of injuries and sudden illnesses that might require first aid. We will discuss and practice only a few simple first aid skills.

Cuts

When someone is bleeding seriously, it is important to stop the bleeding. The best method is to apply direct pressure by pressing a dressing directly over the cut. Try not to touch the blood. If the person is conscious and able to help, he may be able to put pressure directly over the wound himself.

Keep cuts as clean as possible. Find something clean to put over the wound. It is best to use prepackaged, sterile dressing over the wound, but it is more important to stop the bleeding than to waste time looking for a prepackaged bandage. Find the cleanest dressing you can get quickly, and be sure to show cuts to an adult (even the "little ones").

If someone else's blood gets on you, wash it off with soap and water as soon as you can and tell an adult about that, too.

Burns

Burns can range from relatively minor to very serious. They are usually very painful, even if they are small.

Sunburn

The most common burn is sunburn. It is a good idea to protect yourself from the sun. Wear a hat, sunscreen and lip balm if you will be out in the sun for a while. If you do get a sunburn, apply cold, wet cloths for 10-15 minutes several times a day or take a cool bath or shower. You can use soothing gels to moisten and cool the sunburned area as well.

With more serious sunburns, blisters appear or the person gets a fever, chills, nausea or a rash. See a doctor for treatment.

Other burns

If a person is burned by contact with a source of heat, first aid involves removing the source of heat and then cooling off the burned area. Usually a person moves away from the heat by reflex. For example, someone who touches a hot stove snatches his hand back automatically. Then, he can run cool water over the burned area for a few minutes.

If the burn is more serious (if the skin is visibly damaged) do not put anything on the wound. Seek medical assistance. It is very important that all burns be seen by an adult right away.

Stings

Some stings are more painful than others, and can be serious if the person's body has a bad reaction (allergic) to the sting. If a person is stung by a bee, for example, watch for signs of reaction such as serious swelling (more than a small bump) or difficulty breathing. Reactions are more likely if the person was stung several times. It is very important to find an adult (or call 911) as soon as you see any reactions begin.

Broken bones

If there is any possibility of a broken bone, the person should see a doctor, so have an adult look at it before the person moves it. Sometimes, you can tell a bone is badly broken because the arm, finger or leg is deformed, but usually it is impossible for you to tell whether or not a bone is broken.

While it is best not to move a person with a broken bone, if they are in a dangerous place – such as the middle of a road – you may have to move them. Try to keep the bone from moving. Have someone stay with them while you run for help.

First aid practice

To give your group some practice, you or some of the boys can act out one or more of these situations and ask the others what their response would be.

Fall

Set up the scene as if you had been changing a light bulb in a ceiling fixture. Lay on the floor next to a chair that has tipped over. Complain about pain in your leg. [Best response: Boys should assume you have a broken leg. They should call for help and not attempt to move you.]

Carving

Pretend you are carving a block of wood with a knife. The knife slips and cuts your hand. It is bleeding. [Best response: Boys should tell you to cover the wound with a clean dressing or cloth and apply direct pressure to the wound.]

Mowing

Pretend you are out mowing the lawn. A bunch of bees start buzzing around you and you swat at them. A few bees sting you on the arm. [Best response: Boys should have you sit down and rest (not continue mowing) and watch you. If they see any reaction, one boy should run for adult help.]

Review first aid responses

Review the boys' responses to the above situations. Stress the importance of staying calm, praying and doing what you can and getting help as soon as possible.

Drive It Home

Compassion Toward Others

When an emergency takes place, a first aid responder puts their own needs aside and focuses on taking care of the person in need. An emergency magnifies our need to show compassion toward others.

If we pay attention, there are many people in need around us all of the time. Not just in an emergency. A compassionate person puts aside their own needs in order to help a person in need through their distress. Are you a compassionate person? Do you notice those in distress around you? [Some examples might be someone who is lonely, acting out, having difficulty in school, etc.] Do you desire to help those around you in distress?

Repeat Proverbs 17:17 together.

Story

"The Middle of Nowhere"

This story shows boys a practical way to show compassion. To be a friend in time of need.

Kevin jolted upright and stared out the car window. "Where are we?"

His mom, holding a map in her hand, replied, "Somewhere between Denver and Phoenix. I think we are in Utah."

"Where's Dad?"

"He went to talk to the mechanic. We have some sort of problem with the car."

"A mechanic?" Kevin rolled down his window. "Out here? Man, there isn't a town for a hundred miles."

Suddenly, Kevin's sister, Catherine, woke up. "Is this Phoenix?" she yawned.

"Wrong," Kevin laughed. "This is the absolute middle of nowhere. We broke down about 30 years from civilization."

Catherine gasped and looked at her mother. "He's kidding, right, Mom? Is the car really broken?"

"Well, here comes your father. Maybe we'll find out." She rolled down her window.

"Listen up, gang. We have some carburetor problems. But Mr. Edwards, the guy who owns this service station, can fix us up."

"Great!" Kevin exhaled, opening his door. "Do I have time to use the restroom?"

"Well, buddy," his dad said as he nodded, "I figure you have about six hours. Will that be enough time?"

"Six hours!" Catherine moaned. "In this place?"

"They can't even get the part out here until 3 p.m."

Catherine joined Kevin at Dad's side. "We can't stay here for six hours. What will we do? Melt?"

"Mr. Edwards has some sandwiches inside. I suppose we can just take a nap or read," Dad suggested.

"Man, who in the world would live out here? There's nothing around for a hundred miles," Kevin complained. "This looks like where the Lord ran out of ideas for creation and just left it raw."

"Hey, you want to go for a hike?"

Kevin spun around to see a boy about his size, dressed in faded jeans and a faded T-shirt.

"Kevin, this is Danny," Dad said. "He's Mr. Edwards' son. Maybe you two can go exploring."

"You've got to be kidding! What are we going to do — look for rattlesnakes? Besides, I don't know him," Kevin griped.

Danny pulled a red bandana out of his back pocket and tied it around his forehead. "The snakes are all in their holes at this time of day. It's starting to get too hot. But I can show you a lot of neat stuff right over that draw and along the river bottom."

"River?" Kevin perked up. "There's a river?"

"Well, there's a river bed. There's no water in it right now," Danny admitted.

"You might as well look around, Kevin. It will be a long wait," his dad encouraged.

"Go on, Kevin. Maybe you will make a great discovery," his mom urged.

"Yeah, well, it won't take long. This place is really boring," Kevin muttered.

Two and a half hours later, Danny and Kevin returned to grab a sandwich and some pop.

"Dad! You wouldn't believe what we found! Do you see that mesquite tree up there? Well, just beyond that there's a clump of cholla cactus as big as our front yard! And it's all in bloom! You've never seen anything like it. Can I have some chips with my sandwich?"

"Uh, sure." His dad dug into his pocket for some change.

"Mom, did you know you can make jelly out of cactus? How come we never have cactus jelly?"

"Well, I guess I never knew ..."

Kevin crammed half a tuna sandwich into his mouth and mumbled, "You should've seen those coyote pups. They weren't any bigger than Rocket."

Catherine came over to listen to Kevin's jabber.

"Hey, Cath, about two miles down the river bed Danny found some antelope tracks. Antelopes, way out here!"

"Did you see any snakes?" she asked.

"Nah," Kevin gulped down a mouthful of soda, "but Danny tried to stir one out of it's hole."

"He what?"

"He catches them all the time. He says they're really good to eat."

Catherine turned toward the car. "That's really gross, Kevin!"

"Dad, Danny wanted to know if I could ride behind him on his horse and go over to Signal Mountain. Lots of early pioneers carved their names into the side of it."

"Okay, Kev, but remember, we'll be ready to leave about 3:30 or 4:00," his dad cautioned.

Kevin's family was standing by the repaired car when he and Danny finally rode up.

"Dad! We climbed to the top of Signal Mountain! You can see Monument Valley from there! And there's a name carved on the top."

"Come on, Kev, let's go!" Catherine snapped.

"Jim Bridger carved his name up there!" Kevin continued. "Jim Bridger, the mountain man! He's famous – and I stood right where Jim Bridger stood!"

"That's great, Kevin," his mother said, dusting him off. "But it is time to go. Tell Danny thanks for the tour."

"Time to go? We're leaving? Are you sure the car's fixed already?"

Kevin's dad smiled as he scooted Kevin into the car. "Sounds like this place turned out to be more interesting than you thought. And you made a friend who showed you some pretty neat things. Still think the Lord did a lousy job out here?"

"Are you kidding? I wouldn't have seen any of this awesome stuff if it hadn't been for Danny!"

As they pulled onto the road, Kevin exclaimed, "Hey, Dad! Can we stop here on our way home?"

Application

- At first, how did Kevin feel about the place where their car broke down?
- How did Kevin feel about it after Danny showed him around?

Danny gave of his own time to help Kevin who was in distress. He showed compassion and helped out a person in need.

- What are some ways we can serve others?
- What do you enjoy doing that can help someone else?
- Can we plan ways we might serve someone needing help?

Repeat Proverbs 17:17 together.

Leaders' Huddle

Review how the meeting went. Share good things that happened. Pray that your boys will demonstrate friendship and compassion for one another and others.

3

Authenticity

Target

Help boys understand how love is revealed through action. Serving others honors the Lord, develops our character and is a practical way to demonstrate love. An invisible ink activity will help demonstrate revealing love through action.

Scripture

"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you." (John 15:12).

Prep

Read ahead and be sure to prepare your sample message/s for your example. You will need cotton swabs (Q-tips®), lemon juice, printer paper, an iron or a lamp with a bare light bulb 100 watts or higher, and small containers for the lemon juice. Experiment with writing and revealing messages as described below to be ready to lead your boys in this activity.

Games

Pin Guard

Mark a 2' circle and stand a plastic bowling pin inside it. Have all of boys stand in a large circle around the pin. Pick one boy to stand in the middle to guard the pin.

The other boys around the circle throw a ball to knock down the pin. The guard tries to protect the pin by knocking the ball away. He may not step inside the small circle.

If someone knocks the pin over with the ball, he becomes the new guard. If the guard accidentally knocks the pin over, he chooses someone to replace him.

My Father's Store

The boys sit in a rough circle. Some may sit in chairs and others on the floor. It helps if a few boys already know the game.

Start the game by turning to a boy next to you and saying, "My father owns a store. He sells ____." Name something you are touching. That player turns to the other person next to him and says, "My father owns a store. He sells ____." and he names something he is touching. If he does not, tell him there's a mistake. His father cannot sell that object.

Go around the circle until everyone catches on if possible.

Note: If you have played this game before, change the reason an item is

acceptable. For example, it starts with the same letter as the player's last name or is something in the room.

Trek

Scripture

Write John 15:12 in three lines [This is my commandment / that you love one another / as I have loved you.] on a board or flip chart, covered by a large sheet of newspaper or newsprint.

Move the paper down so the boys can see the first line. Ask, "Who do you suppose is speaking here? Who is giving us a command?" Uncover what Jesus is commanding us to do. "Love one another." Jesus wants us to love one another! How hard is that? He says that is what we are supposed to do, no matter what.

Uncover the last phrase. We are supposed to love each other as much as Jesus has loved us. How much love is that? Does that sound impossible? But Jesus commands us to do it. It sounds as if we will need some help.

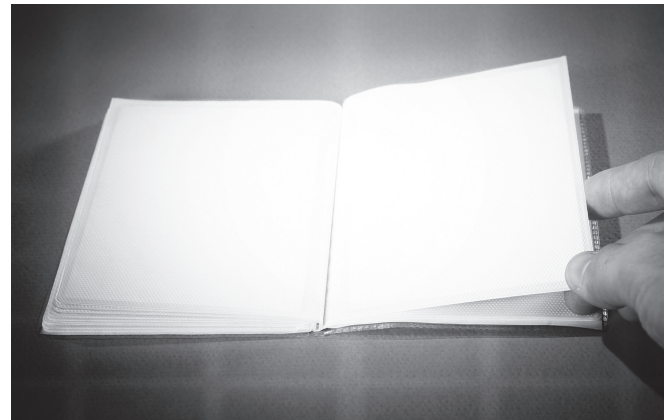
Distribute secret messages

Give each boy a sheet of paper with the hidden messages you prepared in advance. Tell them the papers contain a message which they are to reveal and arrange in the proper order.

Reveal the messages

Set the iron on a hot setting (no steam), or use a 100+ watt bulb. Under your careful supervision, allow boys to move the iron over the surface of their papers or set their paper close to the bulb to reveal their messages. *Caution:* If you use an iron, keep it out of the way until you are ready to use it. Unplug it and move it out of reach when you are done. Also, protect the surface on which the iron will be used.

Option: Just prepare one example. Show the boys the "blank" piece of paper. Then iron it or place it close to the bulb until the phrase shows up and reveal it to the boys.



Create hidden messages

Let the boys create their own hidden messages. Give each a Q-tip®. Set out several small containers of lemon juice. Allow the Q-tips® to soak in the juice for a minute or two before writing.

Since the theme is friendship, encourage boys to write a message to a friend. Invite him over to play games. Suggest an outing. Tell him you are glad he is your friend.

Soaking the Q-tip® will ensure it puts down enough lemon juice, although boys will obviously have to dip it several times as they write. When the juice dries, the message should be relatively invisible. Remind the boys not to use an iron or bulb at home without adult permission and supervision.

Love Revealed

The message on the paper was there even when we could not see it. However, the action of the iron or light bulb revealed the message. Our verse today tells us to love others as Jesus loved us. His love was revealed to us through His actions for us. He gave his life as a payment for our sin, what more could he give to show his love. Are you returning that love to Him? Are you revealing that love to others through your actions?

Repeat John 15:12 together.

Story

Love in Action

The last two weeks, we have been talking about making friends and showing friendship. Most of our friends live nearby and we see them every day or every week.

However, we can show the love of friendship even to those who are far away. Missionary kids love to get mail just like you do. Why not become a pen pal with some missionaries and their children? We can choose some missionaries from our church and brighten their day by sending them letters and greeting cards.

What can we write about? Let's share with them what you are doing in school and church, sports, pets, hobbies, and other things that you enjoy doing. The things you do every day may be what they miss most by living in a different culture.

Pass out small notepaper and invite boys to bring their notes next week to mail together. Here are some possible topics.

- Ask them about the same kinds of things you would share about yourself. How are they different from, or the same as, people at "home"?
- What things would they show you if you came for a visit?
- What interests them the most about where they live?
- What do they like best about living in that country?
- What is school like there?
- Do they eat different foods?
- What happens if they get sick?
- What do they miss the most from home?
- How do they travel?
- Would they like to live there for the rest of their lives?
- What do they do in their free time?
- What is their house like?
- Do they have any close friends?
- Do they have a pet?

Ask them if they have any prayer requests. And most important of all – remember to pray for them every day!

(Adapted from www.simkids.org. Used with permission.)