



# BECOMING OTHERS-CENTERED

## KEY VERSE

"Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves." Romans 12:10

## BIBLICAL BASIS

Matthew 25:37-40; Luke 9:24; Romans 12:10; Ephesians 4:12; 1 John 3:18

## THE BIG IDEA

The call to Christ is the call to serve.

## AIMS OF THIS SESSION

During this session you will guide students to:

- Examine the biblical principles of becoming an others-centered person;
- Discover how they can develop the characteristics of servanthood and leadership;
- Implement a decision to become others-centered as a lifestyle.

## WARM UP

### BECOMING OTHERS-CENTERED—

Students talk about people who serve others.

## TEAM EFFORT— JUNIOR HIGH/ MIDDLE SCHOOL

### I CARE—

A list of students' concerns and actions of concern.

## TEAM EFFORT— HIGH SCHOOL

### PRACTICING RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS AND SENSELESS DEEDS OF BEAUTY—

Students perform service projects.

## IN THE WORD

### HOW TO BE AN OTHERS-CENTERED PERSON—

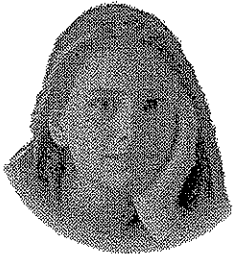
A Bible study on becoming an others-centered person.

## THINGS TO THINK ABOUT (OPTIONAL)

Questions to get students thinking and talking about serving others.

## PARENT PAGE

A tool to get the session into the home and allow parents and young people to discuss how to serve each other and others.



## LEADER'S DEVOTIONAL

**"Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?' The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me'" (Matthew 25:37-40).**

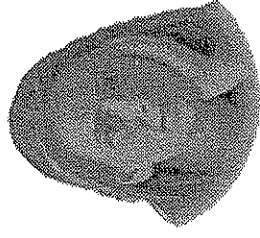
One of the most inspiring teenagers I ever had in our youth ministry was a guy named Mike. When Mike was a junior and senior in high school, he was a linebacker on the best football team in the county. But being a football star wasn't the thing that impressed me about Mike. What really inspired me was Mike's authentic love and concern for others. Mike was a humble servant of Jesus Christ. Let me tell you about the story of Mike and Herb.

Herb was confined to a motorized wheelchair because of severe cerebral palsy. Herb wasn't a strong, popular football star like Mike. Herb drooled, his fingers were crumpled into little contorted fists and his words were barely intelligible. Herb wasn't the type of guy most other teenagers liked to hang around.

During our youth group pizza parties and hamburger nights, while other students were stuffing their faces, I would catch Mike out of the corner of my eye helping Herb with his dinner. Since Herb couldn't hold a hamburger, Mike would patiently serve Herb his dinner one bite at a time. When Herb needed a drink, Mike would hold a can of soda with a straw so Herb could take a sip. On more than a few occasions, I saw this incredible servant of God serving Herb as if he was serving Christ Himself. Mike transformed the message of the Scriptures into real-life practice. He was truly centered on serving Herb's needs and not his own.

Becoming others-centered begins with looking for Jesus in disguise. He may be in a Herb, a coworker or a student in the ministry you serve. As a youth worker, you have the tremendous opportunity to serve Jesus in all the students you know. Serving their needs will show them the authentic love of God in your life. Respond to the needs of young people is responding to the call of Christ. (Written by Joey O'Connor.)

**"Unless life is lived for others, it is not worthwhile."—Mother Teresa**



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## BIBLICAL BASIS

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## THE BIG IDEA

The call to Christ is the call to serve.

## WARM UP (5-10 MINUTES)

### BECOMING OTHERS-CENTERED

- Divide students into groups of three or four.
- Display a copy of “Becoming Others-Centered” on page 33 using an overhead projector.
- Students discuss questions.

1. Who is the most others-centered person you know? What impresses you about him or her?

2. How have you been served by a person or group in the past six months? Have you experienced a significant act of kindness and service?

3. Share an experience you have had with serving someone.

3. Lose yourself in the service of others.  
 “For whoever would save his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for me will save it” (Luke 9:24).  
 Try an experiment: Think of the happiest and most fulfilled person you know. The odds are this person you are thinking of is the most caring, unselfish, serving person you know also. You can lose your own problems as you serve and help others.

Complete this statement: I would be most helped to become a more others-centered person by...

4. You are the only Jesus somebody knows.  
 When you ask Jesus to come into your life, He promises to take up residence in your life. You become a representative of Jesus to others. Since many people never go to church, read the Bible or pray, the only way they may ever discover the forgiving and loving power of Jesus is by seeing Him in your life. That's why you are the only Jesus somebody knows!

Complete this statement: When I hear the phrase, “You are the only Jesus somebody knows” I feel...

- a. challenged.
- b. overwhelmed.
- c. scared.
- d. excited that He lives in me.
- e. I've got a long way to go.
- f. hopeful.

## SO WHAT?

Complete these sentences and share them in a small group:  
 If there is one thing this Bible study on servanthood has taught me, it is...  
 I can be a more others-centered person by...

## THINGS TO THINK ABOUT (OPTIONAL)

- Use the questions on page 41 after or as a part of “In the Word.”
1. Jesus was called the “Suffering Servant” in the book of Isaiah. Why do you think He was called that?

2. Should we go on serving and caring for someone when there is little or no response from them?

3. What are specific ways we can develop a lifestyle of being others-centered?

## PARENT PAGE

- Distribute page to parents.

Fold

## TEAM EFFORT—JUNIOR HIGH/ MIDDLE SCHOOL (15-20 MINUTES)

### I CARE

- Ask the whole group what people their age care about.
  - Divide students into pairs.
  - Give each student a copy of "I Care" on page 35 and a pen or pencil.
  - Students complete their pages.
  - Optional: You could ask the group to find two or three "I care" issues that the youth group or their families could adopt as their "we care" projects.
- list 10 things you care deeply about, if you are doing something specifically about what you care about, list that also.**

I Care:

1. ....
2. ....
3. ....
4. ....
5. ....
6. ....
7. ....
8. ....
9. ....
10. ....

As a whole group, create a list of areas of concerns.

Answer the following questions:

What do most students care about?

What themes come up regularly?

What are some of the most creative "I care" issues?

## TEAM EFFORT—HIGH SCHOOL (15-20 MINUTES)

### PRACTICING RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS AND SENSELESS DEEDS OF BEAUTY

- Divide students into groups of three or four.

- Within 12 minutes have each group perform a service project where they practice at least one random act of kindness or senseless deed of beauty. The purpose of this experience is to show the students that they can find a simple and creative way to serve in a short amount of time.

- Have each group share their experiences after everyone has completed their projects.

## IN THE WORD (25-30 MINUTES)

### HOW TO BE AN OTHERS-CENTERED PERSON

- Divide students into groups of three or four.
- Give each student a copy of "How to Be an Others-Centered Person" on pages 37-39 and a pen or pencil, or display a copy using an overhead projector.
- Students complete the Bible study.

Very often we think of the pastor on Sunday morning as the minister and the congregation as nonministers. That is just not true. We who call ourselves Christians are all ministers. The Greek word for minister also means to serve. It is the role and lifestyle of every Christian to be a servant—to be others-centered.

Our role and lifestyle in this world is to be a lover! In a world where people are hurting and suffering from lack of meaningful relationships, we are called to love them. Karl Menninger, a famous psychiatrist, says that 90 percent of all the people who come to him for help are seeking love. He says, "Love is the medicine of the world."

There are two types of people in the world—the I-centered, me-first people and the others-centered people. Which kind of a person are you? Place a mark on the continuum.

I-Centered

Others-Centered

Here's an interesting statement: "If...a person seeks not to receive love, but rather to give it, he or she will become lovable and will most certainly be loved in the end."

That statement is a paradox! We all want to be loved; however, instead of seeking to be loved, we need to go out and love, care and serve others. In doing this we become lovable, and we experience the joy of being loved by others. Read the statement again and put it into your own words.

Here are four points about being others-centered:

1. Actions speak louder than words!

"Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth" (1 John 3:18).

What actions could you do to be a more others-centered person? (List at least five, being as specific as possible.)

2. Treat others as royalty.

"Love one another with brotherly affection; outdo one another in showing honor" (Romans 12:10, *RSV*).

What specifically can you do to treat others as royalty?

Name three people God is putting on your heart to treat in a special way. What do you plan to do to treat them as royalty?

Name What You Plan to Do

- a. ....
- b. ....
- c. ....



**BECOMING OTHERS-CENTERED**

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2. How have you been served by a person or group in the past six months? Have you experienced a significant act of kindness and service?

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3. Share an experience you have had with serving someone or something that has been beneficial in your life.

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**T** TEAM EFFORT

**I CARE**

List 10 things you care deeply about. If you are doing something specifically about what you care about, list that also.

I Care...

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**I** IN THE WORD

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Name	What You Plan to Do
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b. ....	.....
c. ....	.....

# IN THE WORD

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BECOMING  
OTHERS-CENTERED

## THE CALL TO CHRIST IS THE CALL TO SERVE

### The True or False Quiz

- True    False    It is more blessed to give than to receive.
- True    False    Happy people are more focused on others than themselves.
- True    False    It's harder to be a servant to others as a teenager than as an adult.
- True    False    In today's society it is almost impossible to be a servant.
- True    False    Some people serve too much.
- True    False    We are slaves for Christ.
- True    False    Sometimes serving involves suffering.

"To prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up" (Ephesians 4:12).

How can we as a family serve each other?

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What can our family do together to serve:

Our church?

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Our neighborhood?

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Our community?

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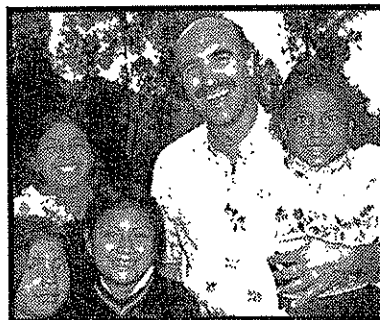
Our world?

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### Here's an idea from Jim Burns: Sponsor a Compassion child.

I can't think of anything more important in life than helping make an impact on the world in which we live by sponsoring a child.

Our family has sponsored a child with Compassion for a number of years. That support of \$24 a month—just 80 cents a day—covers the cost for clothing, health care and education for Ramiro Moises Santi. Our entire family looks forward to receiving Ramiro's letters, and we hope to visit him someday.



You, too, can sponsor a deserving boy or girl who needs love, protection and encouragement. As a sponsor, you'll receive your child's photo and personal story. Your child will know you by name and appreciate your love, help and prayer.

Start today by calling Compassion International's toll-free number, 1-800-336-7676.



Session 2 "Becoming Others-Centered"

Date .....