



BEING AN AGENT OF CHANGE— MAKING A KINGDOM IMPACT

KEY VERSE

“The King will reply, ‘I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did it for me.’” Matthew 25:40

BIBLICAL BASIS

Matthew 13:33; 25:31-46;
2 Corinthians 5:17-20;
Philippians 4:13;
1 Thessalonians 2:8;
1 John 3:16-18

THE BIG IDEA

Being a Christian means being a part of God’s plan to touch the world with His love.

AIMS OF THIS SESSION

During this session you will guide students to:

- Examine the heart of God for the lost and hurting of this world;
- Discover their role in God’s plan to touch the world with His love;
- Implement a practical decision to become an agent of love and change.

WARM UP

PAPER CHARADES—

Students draw key session words.

TEAM EFFORT— JUNIOR HIGH/ MIDDLE SCHOOL

THE SHEEP AND GOATS PLAYERS—

Students act out the parable of the sheep and goats.

TEAM EFFORT— HIGH SCHOOL

SO WHERE’S GOD IN ALL OF THIS?—

Students contemplate a story about God’s presence in the inner city.

IN THE WORD

MAKING A KINGDOM IMPACT—

A Bible study on the call of Christ to be an agent of change in the world.

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT (OPTIONAL)

Questions to get students thinking and talking about how they can make a difference in their world.

PARENT PAGE

A tool to get the session into the home and allow parents and young people to discuss how to be God’s agents of change as a family.

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LEADER'S DEVOTIONAL

“The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed into a large amount of flour until it worked all through the dough” (Matthew 13:33).

In God's economy, quantity is insignificant. Jesus' parable of the leavening bread told of a woman who added yeast to a large batch of bread dough. The power of the yeast in the dough causes a dynamic result. Just as a mustard-seed faith makes a tree-size impact in God's plan, so does an insignificant human who combines a little faith with a big batch of God in a starving world.

Another husband-and-wife team joined my wife and I on a mission trip to Haiti. He thoroughly enjoyed it, but she thoroughly hated it. Especially the time when we took rickety old rowboats across a large bay to a small fishing village called Labadie. The oarsmen were friendly, the view was beautiful and the water was a vibrant turquoise. As far as the wife was concerned the bay was too deep and the boats too old and frail. I could hear her voice calling from the boat behind us. Her husband did the best he could to comfort her while at the same time eating up the “Indiana Jones” nature of the trip. However, the rowboat excursion suffered in comparison to the flight back across the small island of Haiti on a tiny, nine-passenger aircraft. The drafty nature of a mountain-covered island provided quite an eventful ride. I must admit, I was a little squeamish and rather grateful to touch down safely at the Port-au-Prince airport.

What I admired most about the wife though was her willingness to go in spite of very strong reservations. She had no faith in old boats and small planes, but her little bit of faith in a big God made the event a success. Her life since then has been one of steady growth in impact for the kingdom of God. This mild-mannered woman and her husband launched a ministry in Eastern Europe. Not only is she raising kids there, she has also given birth to one there to boot. Their impact on thousands of lives, including many Eastern European teenagers, is an inspiration to me and an ongoing reminder of God's way of doing things. He doesn't need well-baked believers doing great things for Him. God will take a pinch of this or a seed of that and make a kingdom impact. (Written by Doug Webster)

**“Every morning lean
thine arms awhile upon
the windowsill of
Heaven and gaze upon
the Lord. Then, with
that vision in thine
heart, turn strong to
meet the day.”
—Anonymous**



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Matthew 13:33; 25:31-46; 2 Corinthians 5:17-20; Philippians 4:13; 1 Thessalonians 2:8; 1 John 3:16-18

THE BIG IDEA

Being a Christian means being a part of God's plan to touch the world with His love.

WARM UP (5-10 MINUTES)

PAPER CHARADES

- Divide the students into two groups. Give each group a few pieces of newsprint and a pencil.
- Have each group select an "artist" to illustrate each word. Have the artists come up to you and you whisper the word to be drawn to them. The first team to guess the picture correctly wins. Continue with other words.
- Use the following words: "world," "kingdom," "sheep," "serving" and "impact."

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

THE SHEEP AND THE GOATS PLAYERS

- Select six students from your group and assign the following parts:
2 sheep
2 goats

SO WHAT?

1. What keeps you from being sensitive to the needs of those around you?
.....
What specific things can you do to be more sensitive to those in need?
.....
 2. Who in your life has the "face of Jesus"? What is God calling you to do in this person's life?
.....
 3. The sheep served God with what they had and who they were. What are some simple ways that you can serve God with who you are and the gifts He has given you?
.....
 4. What are three action steps that you will take to make a kingdom difference?
.....
- Action Step One:
- Action Step Two:
- Action Step Three:

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT (OPTIONAL)

- Use the questions on page 118 after or as a part of "In the Word."
- 1. What are some things that you can do to make a difference in...
Your Church?
Your Home?
Your School?
Your Community?
- 2. Read Philippians 4:13. If you could be involved in making an impact for God in any way, what would you do?
What's keeping you from doing that?
- 3. What do you think about the statement "Making a difference takes ordinary people doing ordinary things through the power of an extraordinary God?"

PARENT PAGE

- Distribute page to parents.

Fold

A person in need (who will act out all of the "needs")
Jesus

- Tell the players that as you read the story of the sheep and the goats, they will spontaneously act out the scene for the audience. Let them know that they need to really ham it up for effect. Give the players an opportunity to read Matthew 25:36-41 before acting it out so they know what to expect.
- Read Matthew 25:36-41 making sure to stop to let the players act out their individual parts.
- Hand out an old trophy (which you can get at a thrift store) as an Academy Award for the best performance of the group. You can also make up other categories for awards as well.

TEAM EFFORT—HIGH SCHOOL (15-20 MINUTES)

SO WHERE'S GOD IN ALL THIS?

- Divide students into groups of three or four.
 - Give each group a copy of "So Where's God in All This?" on pages 113-114.
 - Have students read the story and discuss the questions.
 - Option: Read the account to the whole group and discuss the questions at the end. They knew that they were in for a tough weekend when they had to step over the body of a drunk man to get into the hotel. Here they were in a rundown hotel a block from skid row in Los Angeles. As they entered the hotel, a stale, smoky smell greeted them. The team was here for a weekend of ministry and changing lives—little did they know that the lives that would be changed were their own.
- That night they were to tour the city—to allow God to break their hearts and to pray for the needs of the city. As they climbed into the blue Dodge van for the drive, the host asked this question, "Tonight, as you're looking around, answer these questions: Where is God in all this? If God is a God of love, then why does He allow the things to happen that you're going to see tonight? Where is He and why does He seem to be silent?"

As they drove the streets of inner-city Los Angeles, each one was affected by the scenes that they saw: the homeless women and children, drug deals, prostitutes (female and male) and fire barrels lit to provide some kind of warmth. As the van turned a corner, there in the dim street light a prostitute was making a score and getting into a Jeep Cherokee—off to some unknown destination. During all of this time the questions kept ringing in their ears: "Where is God in all this? Why does He seem to be silent?"

As the van arrived back at the hotel, the group shuffled into a small room off of the lobby, all the while pondering the questions. The room was uncomfortably quiet as they struggled with their emotions, trying to find some answer to the questions that were posed to them. One by one, students offered their opinions and thoughts; then it came back to the host. "Where was God tonight? Was He silent? I'll tell you where God was tonight: He was riding in a blue Dodge van. The question is not where is God in all this and does He care—the question is where are God's people who are called by His name, and do they really care enough to get involved in touching the world with His love?"

1. What did the host mean when he said "God was riding in a blue Dodge van?"
2. If you had been in that van, how would you have answered the question?
3. Do you see any situations around you where God seems to be silent?
4. Read 2 Corinthians 5:18-20 as a group. How do these verses relate to the story?

What does it mean to be His ambassadors?

IN THE WORD (25-30 MINUTES)

MAKING A KINGDOM IMPACT

- Divide students into groups of three or four.
 - Give each student a copy of "Making a Kingdom Impact" on pages 115-117 and a pen or pencil, or display a copy on an overhead projector.
 - Have students complete the Bible study.
- The call of Christ is a call to be an agent of change. God's desire is that we reach out to those around us and make a kingdom impact one life at a time.
- Read Matthew 23:31-46.

1. List all the similarities and differences between the sheep and the goats.

Similarities

2. How are we like the sheep in the story?

How are we like the goats in the story?

BEING SENSITIVE TO THE NEEDS OF OTHERS

1. What is the difference between the attitude of the sheep in verse 37 and the goats in verse 44?

2. What keeps us from being sensitive to the needs of those around us?

SEEING THE FACE OF JESUS ON THOSE IN NEED

1. Who were the sheep really serving in verse 40?

2. What do you think about the statement "When you're serving those around you, you are really serving Jesus Christ?"

3. Why do you think the goats never saw the face of Jesus in the needy ones around them?

SERVING WITH WHAT YOU HAVE AND WHO YOU ARE

1. What are some of the ways the sheep ministered to those around them?
2. Why do you think the sheep were so surprised by the King's comment in verses 34-37?
3. What do you think Jesus is calling us to do in verse 40?

So many times we think that God is looking for the talented when in reality He is looking for the willing and available. God is looking for people who want to serve in the small things, in the "whatever's." Making a difference takes ordinary people doing ordinary things through the power of an extraordinary God.

TEAM EFFORT



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SO WHERE'S GOD IN ALL THIS?

They knew that they were in for a tough weekend when they had to step over the body of a drunk man to get into the hotel. Here they were in a rundown hotel a block from skid row in Los Angeles. As they entered the hotel, a stale, smoky smell greeted them. The team was here for a weekend of ministry and changing lives—little did they know that the lives that would be changed were their own.

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4. Read 2 Corinthians 5:18-20 as a group. How do these verses relate to the story?

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IN THE WORD

MAKING A KINGDOM IMPACT

The call of Christ is a call to be an agent of change. God's desire is that we reach out to those around us and make a kingdom impact one life at a time.

Read Matthew 25:31-46.

1. List all the similarities and differences between the sheep and the goats.

Similarities

Differences

2. How are we like the sheep in the story?

How are we like the goats in the story?

Being Sensitive to the Needs of Others

1. What is the difference between the attitude of the sheep in verse 37 and the goats in verse 44?

2. What keeps us from being sensitive to the needs of those around us?

Seeing the Face of Jesus on Those in Need

1. Who were the sheep really serving in verse 40?

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2. What do you think about the statement "When you're serving those around you, you are really serving Jesus Christ"?

3. Why do you think the goats never saw the face of Jesus in the needy ones around them?

Serving with What You Have and Who You Are

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So What?

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What specific things can you do to be more sensitive to those in need?

2. Who in your life has the "face of Jesus"? What is God calling you to do in this person's life?

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Action Step One:

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THINGS TO THINK ABOUT

1. What are some things that you can do to make a difference in...

Your Church?

Your Home?

Your School?

Your Community?

2. Read Philippians 4:13. If you could make a difference for God in any way, what would you want to do?

What's keeping you from making that difference?

3. What do you think about the statement "Making a difference takes ordinary people doing ordinary things through the power of an extraordinary God"?

PARENT PAGE



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BE AN AGENT OF CHANGE

Being a Christian means being a part of God's plan to touch the world with His love. In Matthew 25:31-46, we hear the clear voice of God calling us to reach out to others with His love. It's more than words—it takes action!!!

What do the following passages say about making a difference for the kingdom?

Matthew 25:40

2 Corinthians 5:18-20

1 Thessalonians 2:8

1 John 3:16-18

Listed below are some ideas for you to be able to make a difference in your world as a family. Look through the list, brainstorm some other possible ideas, and pick one or two to get involved in as a family.

Volunteer in an area of ministry within your church.

Support a child through Compassion International:

Compassion International
P.O. Box 7000
Colorado Springs, CO 80933
1-800-336-7676

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- Volunteer to work at a rescue mission.
 - As a family, volunteer at a convalescent home.
 - Volunteer to work with a local ministry to the homeless in your area.
 - Support a missionary financially and/or prayerfully.
 - Teach a Sunday School class as a family.
 - Have your pastor over for a thank-you dinner or write a note of encouragement.
 - Go and visit a shut-in from your church.
 - Open your home to a home Bible study.
 - Volunteer to greet visitors to your church on Sunday mornings.
 - Invite a new family in your church over for dinner.
 - Go on a short-term mission trip as a family for a weekend or a week.
 - Start a care ministry at your church.
 - Start a parent prayer support team for the youth ministry of your church.
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Session 8: "Being an Agent of Change—
Making a Kingdom Impact"

Date