



Let's go help
some peeps.

👍 Where 2?

Friends with Everyone ...

Tween Small Group

Week 6: Mission Minded.

ACTIVITY: Operation Reaching Out



service scavenger hunt
at someone's home:

- CLEAN A BATHROOM
- TAKE OUT THE TRASH
- VACUUM A LIVING ROOM
- SWEEP A KITCHEN FLOOR
- UNLOAD A DISHWASHER
- WIPE DOWN KITCHEN CUPBOARD DOORS
- CLEAN A MICROWAVE
- FOLD SOME LAUNDRY
- DELIVER YOUR PLATE OF GOODIES
- HOME OWNER'S CHOICE

in the community:

- WASH 5 CAR WINDSHIELD AT A GAS STATION
- HELP SOMEONE BRING GROCERIES TO THEIR CAR
- PUT AWAY 5 STRAY SHOPPING CARTS
- LEAVE UPLIFTING NOTES ON 5 CARS IN A PARKING LOT
- TAPE 5 UPLIFTING NOTES IN A PUBLIC BATHROOM
- PICK UP TRASH AT A LOCAL PARK OR PARKING LOT
- GIVE A FLOWER TO 3 DIFFERENT PEOPLE AND WISH THEM A GREAT DAY

TAKE PICTURES OF EACH TASK TO MARK IT OFF YOUR LIST.
the team with the most tasks completed will get a prize!

© WORDS



Today's activity is to create uplifting notes.

Supplies: cards/envelopes, stickers, markers/gel pens.

This week we are learning how to be mission minded, and what friendship has to do with that. To start, this week's activity is going to send you on a mission. Each mother/daughter team will have one list full of ways to help someone else. Together, check off as many of them as you can! The winners will receive a prize!

When you made uplifting notes, you didn't know who they would be for. Looking at this list, you have no idea who some of these people you are going to help will be! Reaching out, when we're doing it right, pushes us out of our comfort zone. It causes us to stop doing what we *want* to do, and instead spend time helping someone else.

A heart to serve is mission minded! It's our mission on this earth to love one another!

TRAIN YOUR BRAIN: "Consider the power of your presence in another person's life."

What is the Mission?

The Fiery Furnace

Daniel's friends were not afraid of King Nebuchadnezzar. They had a good God, a good example to follow, Daniel, and they had each other. Things meant to scare us do not when we face them with God, and godly friends.

Far better than this AMAZING story is the example Jesus has given us, and His constant encouragement. With us always, He's the best friend we will ever have. We may not be strong enough to walk through hard situations, but He is. Not only is He with us, just like He was in the fire with these three friends, but He places people in our lives to be the friends we need in every season of life. Every hear the saying, "The Lord is my strength?" This is what it means. Jesus' love for us makes us strong.

Love is Jesus' greatest command.

"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." John 13:34-35 NIV

People loved and understood love before this new command, but not in the way Jesus' was talking about. Jesus' example of laying down His life for others made this command to love brand new.

What is a disciple? A disciple is a follower. Jesus' disciples followed Him, listened to His teachings, and applied them to their hearts and lives. Now, disciples were expected to imitate their teachers. Jesus said that everyone would know His disciples by how they love one another. It was important they understood the difference between the old and the new command, and it's important for us ... as modern day disciples of Jesus, to understand what He means by "love one another."

The old command was ***Leviticus 19:18: "Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against anyone amongst your people, but love your neighbor as yourself. I am the Lord." (NIV)***

The disciples were still called to love their neighbor, and follow this command. But when Jesus gave the example of giving His life for them, it became so much more. Like a secret handshake or a friendship necklace. A sacred oath or promise. It bonded them together. The new standard for love, from then on, is Christ's love for us. It's bonds us together.

"He answered, 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind; and Love your neighbor as yourself.'" Luke 10:27 NIV

Jesus came to add to what they already knew about love, and show them another way to understand what they already knew. It's the same for us. Knowing Jesus loves us is EVERYTHING. And it helps us to better understand how to love our neighbors (the people in our lives) as ourselves.

The mission is THE GREAT COMMISSION. Matthew 28:18-20 says:

Jesus came and told his disciples, "I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

In order to teach people about Jesus' command to love, we have to understand how to love. So ...how do we? Since Jesus sets the standard for love, we can look at how He lived life on this earth to see how to love. Jesus welcomed all people, and listened to them. Really listened. He understood them better than they understood themselves! We can't do that, but we can certainly welcome and listen to the people God places in our lives.

Jesus knew the good in every person, and He choose to focus on it, and to help them see it. He was good at helping people embrace the person and purpose God had created. He liked people! We, too, can look for the good in others. When we find it and choose to focus on it, we are truly loving like Jesus. He loved all, and loves us, for who we are ...right now. Jesus not only accepted others for who they were, but He loved them for who they were. He loves us for who we are ...RIGHT NOW. Right where we are at! When we decide to like people for who they are, rather than try to change them or complain about the things we don't like about them or that annoy us, we are following Jesus' command to love.

TRAIN YOUR BRAIN: "Keep the conversation going.

Becoming Mission Minded.

"Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins." 1 Peter 4:8 NIV

OK, so we learned what the mission is, The Great Commission, and we learned how to train our minds to love the way Jesus commanded. How do we put the two together in order to be mission minded? And what does this have to do with friendship? Forgiveness. Forgiveness allows us to love others despite their differences. When we forgive others, it shows that we understand just how much we have been loved and forgiven.

"Love covers over a multitude of sins ..." What does *that* mean? Well, it was quoted from a verse out of the Old Testament (the books written before Jesus was born):

"Hate stirs up conflict, but love covers all wrongs." Proverbs 10:12 NIV

Before people could witness the way Jesus lived on earth, they understood this kind of love to be neighborly love ...loving your neighbor as yourself kind of love. Which was an important part of it. But what they didn't quite understand yet, was just how deep and wide God's love was for His people.

When Jesus died on the cross, for a people who sinned and would continue to sin against Him, it blew their minds. That's a different kind of love. One that is bigger than any sin, shortcoming, or wrong any person can do or have. Forgiveness is important, because it puts our understanding of this love on display. Since we understand Jesus' love for us, and know He forgives us, we are to forgive others. Do you see how Jesus' life on earth helps us better understand how to love one another? We would not die for someone who hurt us. Especially not for someone who hurt us, isn't sorry about it, and would do it again. But Jesus would. He did. He redefined love. Now, we understand that love ...

"...does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs." 1 Corinthians 13:5 NIV

This kind of love is hard, but praying and reading our Bibles daily helps us learn how to love as time goes on. It's important to be honest with God in prayer when things are unfair, when we are hurt, and when we are struggling to forgive. Keep the conversation going. He understands we won't get it right all of the time, but He loves us anyway. Ask for forgiveness, and keep trying. People will notice. Our friends will feel loved like never before, and we will live mission minded lives.

The best friendships are products of mission minded lives. We can love others because He loves us. The result? Brave, Strong, Courageous, Forgiving, Loving, Kind, Patient and Compassionate, Christ-centered lives. And as a result of that? Some of the best friendships EVER.

TRAIN YOUR BRAIN: "You are always forgiven, and never loved less."

CLOSING:

This week's challenge is important. We have three weeks to complete it. Remember, there will be a prize for the winner of the scavenger hunt.

Tween Discussion:

Pray for God's guidance in who needs our help as we check off the items on our Service Scavenger Hunt list. Finish Uplifting Cards.

Adult Discussion:

Accountability.

As parents, we often give our children the right tools and advice to succeed, but holding them and ourselves accountable are where true steps of growth occur. Let's challenge ourselves, as we walk through Lent and prepare to celebrate Easter, to hold ourselves accountable to cross. To realize how loved we are, and make steps to strengthen our personal relationships with Jesus. It will help to be better people, spouses, parents, and friends. Life is busy ...make the time.

This week's Service Scavenger Hunt is a beautiful bouquet of potential growth. Teaching our children how to love others requires us to do just that. There's something special about facing the unknown together ...just like Daniels friends did in the fiery furnace. Jesus was there with them, and will be with you and your daughter's as you reach out of your comfort zone. Hold yourselves accountable to it. Yes, it will take time. Yes, we all have no more time to give. Do it anyway, and watch how the Creator of time holds you in the palm of His hand to stretch your minutes.