

dwell®




DIVE

Dear Family,


This week we wrap up our year by spending six weeks looking at what it means for the church to be a missional community. We'll be looking at stories of real-life missional living, hearing from members of the local community and congregation, and exploring what the Bible says about the kind of community we should be.

Session 1: An Inside-Out, Upside-Down Community Matthew 5:1-16 (Living out our faith means joining God's mission to be part of an inside-out, upside-down community.) 

Session 2: A Worshiping Community Isaiah 1:10-20 (Our worship is worthless and offensive if it is not joined to a commitment to justice and God's mission in the world.) 

Session 3: A Caring Community Acts 9:32-43 (As God's people we are called to care for each other in practical ways.) 

Session 4: A Serving Community Luke 10:25-37 (As God's people we are called to show love, mercy, and compassion to others.) 

Session 5: A Sharing Community Acts 11:19-26; 12:25-13:3 (The church cannot help but tell others the good news about Jesus!) 

Session 6: Stories of the Inside-Out, Upside-Down Community Colossians 1:3-14 (God's people are a missional community.) 

Pass It On

Here are some ideas for how you might engage your child in a faith discussion or live out your faith together:

- Read through the Beatitudes (Matt. 5:3-10) with your child, and talk about what the verses mean to you. (Session 1)
- Ask your child to explain to you how to "Pray in Color," and spend some time together using that method to pray. (Session 2)
- Talk with your child about any service-related activities you or another family member are involved with through your church. If you aren't involved, ask your child about ways your whole family can help to care for people in need in your congregation. (Session 3)
- Discuss with your child who some of your "neighbors" might be and develop a plan to serve someone who lives nearby and could use some extra help. (Session 4)
- Share your faith story/testimony with your child or talk about a time when you shared the story of God's love with someone. (Session 5)
- Ask your child to share with you some of the stories about missional living they heard in this unit. (Session 6)

Sincerely,

Memory Challenge Cards (NIV)

Copy these Scripture Memory Challenge cards onto cardstock, then cut them apart to distribute to the group at the end of the appropriate sessions. Consider punching a hole in each and attaching it to a key ring or small carabineer.



³ “Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
⁴ Blessed are those who mourn,
for they will be comforted.
⁵ Blessed are the meek,
for they will inherit the earth.
⁶ Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for
righteousness,
for they will be filled.
⁷ Blessed are the merciful,
for they will be shown mercy.
⁸ Blessed are the pure in heart,
for they will see God.
⁹ Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called children of God.
¹⁰ Blessed are those who are persecuted because of
righteousness,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”
—Matthew 5:3-10



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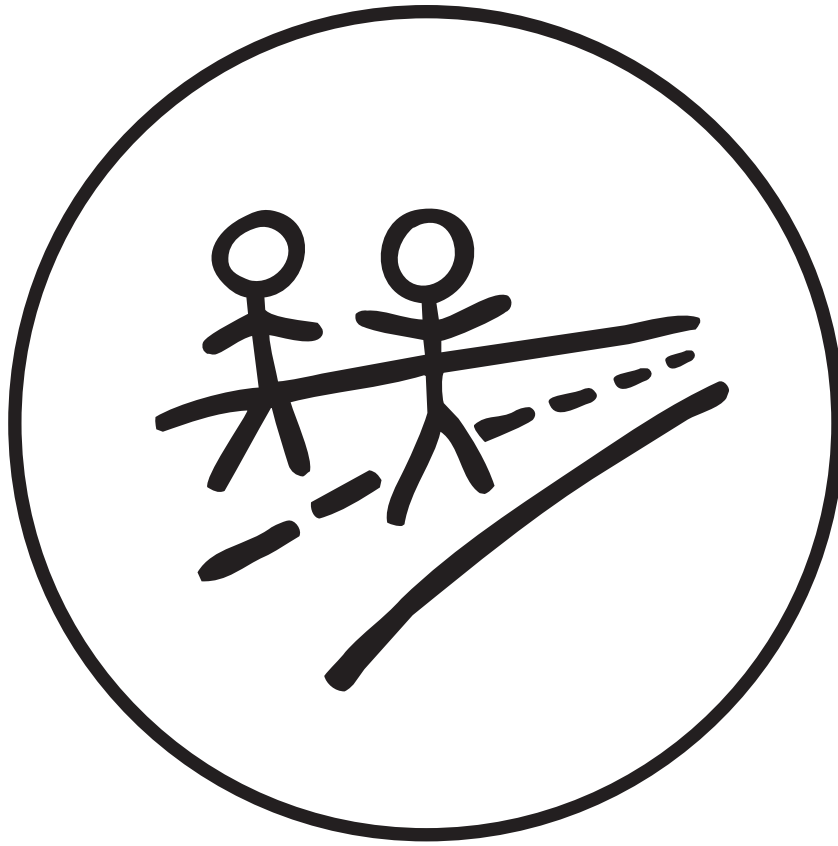
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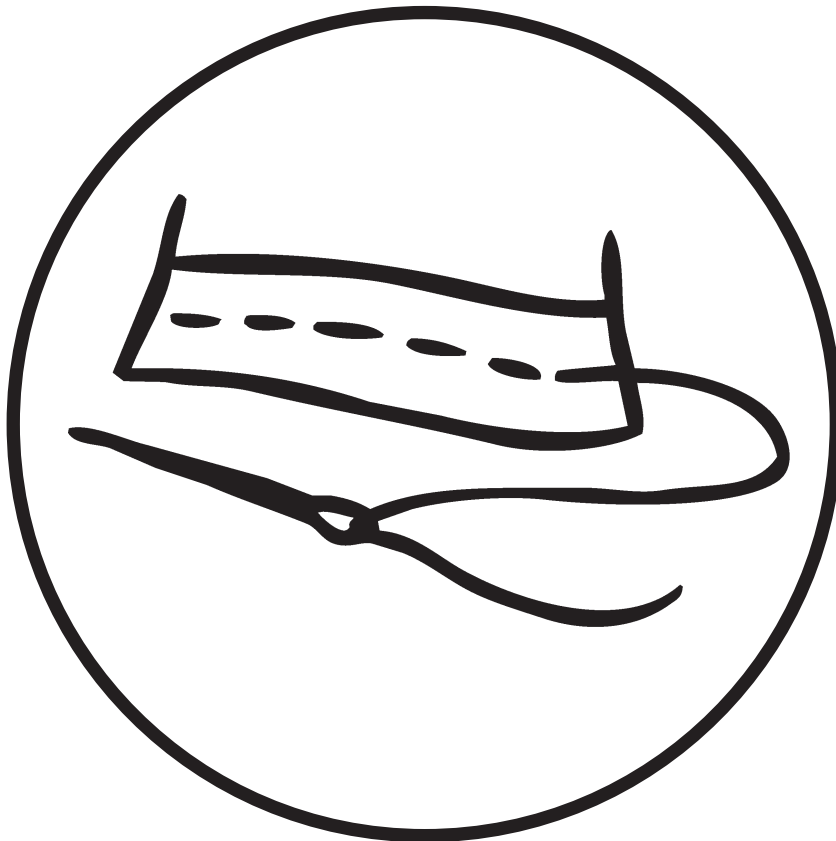
Year 3, Unit 6, Session 2



Year 3, Unit 6, Session 1



Year 3, Unit 6, Session 4



Year 3, Unit 6, Session 3



Year 3, Unit 6, Session 6



Year 3, Unit 6, Session 5



Allow several minutes for groups to brainstorm before they present their skit to the whole group.

Think about how you could live out this beatitude in real life.
Create a skit to share with the group that displays this quality being lived out.

**Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**

We are called to be humble, realizing that everything comes from God.
This is the direct opposite of pride and personal independence.

Think about how you could live out this beatitude in real life.
Create a skit to share with the group that displays this quality being lived out.

**Blessed are those who mourn,
for they will be comforted.**

We should feel sadness over sins or a loss. We should not strive to have happiness at any cost, but know that hard times can be used for God's good purpose.

Think about how you could live out this beatitude in real life.
Create a skit to share with the group that displays this quality being lived out.

Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

People who are meek are humble, gentle, and kind.
Meekness is not weakness, but obedience. This is the direct opposite of striving for power.

Think about how you could live out this beatitude in real life.
Create a skit to share with the group that displays this quality being lived out.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

Righteousness is the act of doing what is in agreement with God's standards; being in proper relationship with him. As Christians we should seek to be more like Christ and live our lives according to the ways of Scripture.

Think about how you could live out this beatitude in real life.
Create a skit to share with the group that displays this quality being lived out.

Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

Merciful people are loving toward those who suffer. They offer forgiveness to those who may have wronged them. Mercy is often also shown through compassion.

Think about how you could live out this beatitude in real life. Create a skit to share with the group that displays this quality being lived out.

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

Pure in heart means that you are free from selfish intentions and self-seeking desires. We should seek to honor God with all our actions and seek the good of others.

Think about how you could live out this beatitude in real life. Create a skit to share with the group that displays this quality being lived out.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

The word *peacemakers* here implies action—bringing peace and friendship to others. It's not peace at any cost, but working toward true peace.

Think about how you could live out this beatitude in real life. Create a skit to share with the group that displays this quality being lived out.

Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Persecuted persons suffer for Christ's sake. Persecution involves, among other things, being true to your faith and doing the right thing even when others mock, reject, or harm you because of it.

Sample list of nonperishable items a local food pantry could use:

- Toothpaste
- Feminine hygiene products
- Paper towels
- Toilet paper
- Shampoo and conditioner
- Laundry soap
- Dish soap
- Cleaning products
- Bleach
- Corn (not creamed)
- Peaches
- Pineapple
- Mandarin oranges
- Mayonnaise
- Pears
- Sugar
- Cooking oil
- Evaporated milk
- Sweetened condensed milk
- Egg noodles
- Salsa
- Tomato sauce
- Diced tomatoes
- Ketchup
- Jam and jelly
- Boxed pasta mix
- Ravioli
- Spaghetti O's
- Oatmeal
- Pancake mix
- Pancake syrup
- Skillet dinners
- Tuna fish
- Canned meat

Chapel Hill High School Community Garden

Kristen Powers, 18

Chapel Hill, North Carolina

Once a neglected plot of land, Chapel Hill High School Community Garden has been cultivated into a lush, productive space.

Driving Force In early fall 2008, Kristen’s biology teacher and eco-club adviser mentioned the ugly empty lot next to the school’s tennis court. The 50- x 70-foot area was overgrown with grass and weeds; on it stood an abandoned greenhouse covered with vines and dirt. It was the perfect spot for a garden, the teacher said, but who had the time and motivation to clean up the mess? “It bugged me to see a problem when I knew there was a solution,” says Kristen, who was the founder and president of the high school’s environmental club, the Green Tigers. With six initial members, tackling the garden seemed like a doable first project. “We realized we could have a discernible impact,” she says.

Call to Action Luckily, growing season was three months away. “It was just enough time to get the plot ready,” says Kristen. But there was a bit of a learning curve. “We were Green Tigers without green thumbs,” she admits. The students didn’t know what to grow, and preparing the yard for planting was more involved than they’d anticipated. “Initially I thought we should make the garden produce as soon as possible,” Kristen says. “But a more sensible short-term goal was to clean it up before researching which crops would flourish.”

Room to Grow Soon enough, the garden’s visible changes inspired other kids, parents, and teachers to pitch in and reclaim the land. Students received service credits for tasks like cleaning out the greenhouse, planting flowers, and creating wood-chip walkways, but soon they were stopping by the garden simply to hang out. Local gardeners suggested growing techniques. “We tilled, moved mulch, and added compost to beds,” says Kristen, who also led a fundraising drive that brought in \$3,000. In spring 2010, the Green Tigers had their first successful harvest: kale, mustard greens, arugula, potatoes, and onions. It was enough to fill 50 bags with produce for an informal salad fest for the 100 volunteers—the majority of them students—who had beautified a piece of Chapel Hill under Kristen’s direction. The Green Tigers have since donated 135 bags of organic produce to the community.

For more information on other teens making a difference, check out www.dosomething.org. (*Disclaimer: This is not a religious organization, but a nonprofit that helps teens work for social justice*).

Reprinted from “5 Teens Who Are Making A Difference,” by John Hanc, www.familycircle.com.



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Year 1

Unit 1 What Do I Do When Things Fall Apart?

Unit 2 What's the Covenant All About?

Unit 3 Who Is God?

Unit 4 Who Is Jesus?

Unit 5 Who Is the Holy Spirit?

Unit 6 What Is the Church?

Year 2

Unit 1 What Is Being a Christian All About?

Unit 2 What's with All the Rules?

Unit 3 Can't We All Just Get Along?

Unit 4 Who's Number 1?

Unit 5 Does What I Do Make a Difference?

Unit 6 What Do I Say When I Pray?

Year 3

Unit 1 Worship

Unit 2 Justice

Unit 3 Prayer

Unit 4 Stewardship

Unit 5 Bible Reading

Unit 6 Missional Living



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