

Youth Activity—How Do We Share?

The various projects highlighted as a part of One Great Hour of Sharing in countries like Honduras, Nicaragua and West Timor assist local farmers and other producers increase their ability to produce and sell crops in more sustainable ways.

However, it is important that those of us who want to share in these programs understand the implications of our charity and benevolence.

Paul's letter to the small churches in Galatia is one of inclusivity, hospitality, and generosity. His message took hold in a culture that cared little for these values, except as they led to self-serving benefits. In some ways, that is not much different than what we see today in our own society.

Young people look around their communities—and even the world—and want to share with others, but HOW we share is as important as the sharing itself. These activities are designed to think about this very topic. This youth section involves a Bible study and then three activities which follow. You can choose to do this in one meeting or use it over the course of several gatherings.

Study the Bible

This year's focus text for One Great Hour of Sharing is **Galatians 6:9–10**

⁹“So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up. ¹⁰So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all, and especially for those of the family of faith.” [NRSV]

^{9–10}“So let's not allow ourselves to get fatigued doing good. At the right time we will harvest a good crop if we don't give up, or quit. Right now, therefore, every time we get the chance, let us work for the benefit of all.” [MSG]

Break into smaller groups and discuss these questions (others can be added):

- When have you wanted to “give up” and stop doing good for another?
- Can you think of a time when you have just said, “I'm tired of helping?” What motivated you to continue?
- When has your life been changed for the better because you shared with another?

Role Playing

Many times, we share with others without thinking about the implications. We look for a “quick fix” through our sharing. It is important for youth to realize that sometimes our sincere actions are not received in the same way by the recipient of our charity. In fact, sometimes we just feel better about ourselves.

In this role-playing exercise, youth are divided into smaller groups to consider three different scenarios of “sharing.” They have the opportunity to bring up issues regarding how groups engage with mutuality and sensitivity.

Ask the groups to role play and then discuss the questions which follow:

Role Play 1

Upon seeing the need in one community for clothing, a group of youth gathered up dirty clothes upon the completion of a mission trip and gave them to the community.

Role Play 2

Because of the heat from the summer temperatures in a community where your youth group was doing a mission trip, your group decided to purchase fans for some community members where access to electricity was limited and expensive.

Role Play 3

Your group visits a local food pantry/domestic violence shelter/non-profit agency. While on the tour, the guide mentions that they have a computer lab but not enough printers for those who use the lab. As soon as the tour is over, your group decides to purchase two printers at a local office supply store and donate them immediately.

Questions for all groups

1. How do you think the sending community/group felt about the interaction?
2. How do you think the receiving community/group felt about the interaction?
3. What might be the consequences of giving gifts in this way?
4. What might have been a better approach to the situation?