



So Many Ways to Respond Leader's Guide

A Youth Bible Study by Jessica Bordeleau

The leader's guide is divided into five parts. Each part has leader directions in italics and the words the leader should share aloud with the group indented. These words are guidelines and don't necessarily need to be spoken verbatim. The leader should read the entire leader's guide ahead of time in preparation and familiarize themselves with the church professions described on the "What a Way" Web site: <http://whataway.lcms.org>. A copy of the "Youth Handout Page" and a pen or pencil should be available for each youth.

1. Focus on the Reason (5 min)

Begin by welcoming everyone and inviting them to have a seat. Hand out copies of the "Youth Handout Page." Share these words:

I am going to begin today by reading a Bible verse that you have probably heard before. As I read it to you today I want you to close your eyes and listen as if it were the first time you have ever heard this passage.

Read Romans 3:21-24 aloud twice. The second time read it slowly . . . allow a few seconds of silence for it to sink in before asking them to open their eyes and discuss the following.

Jesus has given us all we need, and much more than we deserve. All your sins are forgiven and you have a home waiting for you in heaven. What are the specific responses in life that motivate you to do?

Allow youth to share openly and discuss this question.

2. So Many Applications! (10 min)

Read Matthew 28:16-20.

What do these words have to say to YOU? Why are pastors and teachers NOT the only people who should be sharing what Jesus did with others?

After youth have had a chance to respond to these questions share the following:

The words in this passage were spoken by Jesus to His disciples, but the opportunity to share your faith is for all of us! All Christians are to live out their faith in ways that reach into the community around them. No matter what profession you may choose, witnessing and living out your faith in Jesus is part of our response to what Christ has done for us. That response is for all of us, but some of us may choose to make it our profession as well.

What are the different professional church careers available in our church home, the LCMS?

Make a list to see which professions the group is familiar with.

Pastor, teacher, director of Christian education, director of Christian outreach, deaconess, lay minister, and director of parish music are all professions within our church. Can you describe the work that each does?

Use the "What a Way" Web site (www.whataway.org) as a resource to enable you discuss each profession and the ways they generally serve. Emphasize the wide range of service opportunities that these professions offer.

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3. Making it Personal (15 Min)

I want you to answer this question in your mind, without sharing aloud yet. Have you ever considered one of these professions? Can you imagine yourself serving in one of those ways?

Give a few seconds of silence for them to think it over.

There are many reasons why people dismiss the idea of serving as a professional church worker. Sometimes people won't even think about the possibility and limit their job search to exclude any kind of church work. There are numerous limiting mindsets that may prevent us from broadening our perspectives.

Break down into five groups. Give each of the groups one of the categories. Ask each group to read the passage and decide as a group how that limiting mindset can be overcome. Have them write their thoughts down on the "Youth Handout Page." Once each group has reached a consensus, have them read the passage aloud to the group and share what they wrote.

LIMITING MINDSETS

"My past is too sinful."
Acts 7:55-8:1, 9:1-31

"I won't know what to say."
Exodus 4:10-17

"I am too young."
1 Timothy 4:9-16

"I am not smart enough."
James 1:5

"It doesn't pay enough."
Matthew 6:27-34

4. Hark the Voice (15 min)

Break down into six new groups. Give each group one of the following verses to consider. Have each group write out what the verse means to them and how it impacts their thinking. Ask them to give specific examples of how they could act on these ideas both now and in the future. After each group is ready have a spokesperson from each group share their verse and thoughts about it out loud.

Hark, The Voice of Jesus Calling by Daniel March

Hark, the voice of Jesus calling,
"Who will go and work today?
Fields are ripe and harvests waiting,
Who will bear the sheaves away?"
Long and loud the Master calls us,
Rich reward He offers free;
Who will answer, gladly saying,
"Here am I, send me, send me"?

If you cannot cross the ocean,
And the distant lands explore,
You can find the lost around you,
You can help them at your door;
If you cannot give your thousands,
You can give the widow's mite;
What you truly give for Jesus,
Will be precious in His sight.

If you cannot speak like angels,
If you cannot preach like Paul,
You can tell the love of Jesus,
You can say He died for all.
If you cannot rouse the wicked,
With the judgment's dread alarms,
You can lead the little children
To the Savior's waiting arms.

If you cannot be the watchman,
Standing high on Zion's wall,
Pointing out the path to heaven,
Offering life and peace to all,
With your prayers and with your bounties
You can do what heaven demands;
You can be like faithful Aaron,
Holding up the prophet's hands.

If among the older people,
You may not be apt to teach,
"Feed My lambs," said Christ, our Shepherd,
"Place the food within their reach."
And it may be that the children
You have led with trembling hand,
Will be found among your jewels,
When you reach the better land.

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Let none hear you idly saying,
"There is nothing I can do."
While the lost of earth are dying,
And the Master calls for you;
Take the task He gives you gladly;
Let His work your pleasure be;
Answer quickly when He calls you,
"Here am I, send me, send me."

5. Depart in Peace! (5 min)

Read Luke 10:1-2.

What does Jesus mean when He says, "The harvest is plentiful?"

Give youth the opportunity to express their ideas about this passage before continuing with the following thoughts.

All the people in the world are like valuable grain ready to be harvested. There are people all around us who are ready to hear the Word of God, who are ready to be "harvested" and brought to the knowledge of Christ. There are people who are already like growing grain who need to be fed and watered by God's Word. All these people would benefit from full-time professional church workers to help lead and guide them. They could use someone to teach them what God's Word means and how to live their. As verse 2 says, let's ask the Lord of the Harvest to provide the workers.

Lead the youth in prayer, allowing each one to voice their prayers out loud. After the prayer has ended dismiss the group joyfully. Let the youth know that if they have any questions about church professions that you are there to talk with them.