

STUDENT MISSIONS STUDY

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Compassion at Work in Louisiana

As students arrive, play the Georgia Barnette Offering Music video.

1. Ice Breaker

On the wall, place pictures of history makers and celebrities such as Abraham Lincoln, Tom Holland, the Jonas Brothers, George Washington, Martin Luther King Jr, Taylor Swift, etc.... Under the pictures attach a sheet of empty paper for the students to write on.

Ask them to take a sharpie and write a word or two that describes each of the people. After they've had an opportunity to write things under the picture, read the words and invite them to share details about why the words fit the person.

2. Make it Personal

Ask: If your picture was on the wall, what words do you hope people would write under your name?

3. Study the Scripture

Read: Ephesians 4:25-32 (CSB)

²⁵ Therefore, putting away lying, speak the truth, each one to his neighbor, because we are members of one another. ²⁶ Be angry and do not sin. Don't let the sun go down on your anger, ²⁷ and don't give the devil an opportunity. ²⁸ Let the thief no longer steal. Instead, he is to do honest work with his own hands, so that he has something to share with anyone in need. ²⁹ No foul language should come from your mouth, but only what is good for building up someone in need, so that it gives grace to those who hear. ³⁰ And don't grieve God's Holy

Spirit. You were sealed by him for the day of redemption. ³¹ Let all bitterness, anger and wrath, shouting and slander be removed from you, along with all malice. ³² And be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving one another, just as God also forgave you in Christ.

Bring their attention to verse 32.

Ask:

- Can you share a story about someone who was kind and compassionate to you?
- What makes this verse such a difficult one to live out?

Underscore the "just as" part of the verse. We are to love and forgive people just as Christ forgave us.

4. If It Happened Today

Divide the group into three or four subgroups.

Ask the students to use their Bibles to find Luke 10:25-37.

Read the story aloud. Then ask your students to work with their smaller group to retell the story as a modern story that could have happened in your town. Allow them to be as creative, funny, inspiring, or radical as they want while keeping the main storyline.

Give about ten minutes for the groups to work on their version, then invite each group to read or tell their 2024 version of this familiar story.

Say: It's amazing how the stories Jesus shared are still relevant today.

Invite the students to work together to create an acrostic for the word Samaritan.



STUDENTS

Write the word on a large sheet of paper as seen below:

S _____
A _____
M _____
A _____
R _____
I _____
T _____
A _____
N _____

Invite them to think of words that start with the letters which describe what a modern-day rescuer is like.

5. Share a Video

Show the “Compassion Goes to Church” video that can be downloaded from GeorgiaBarnette.org.

NOTE: For additional information on Amazing Grace Ministries/Rescue Church, check out “When Compassion Goes to Church” in the Prayer Guide.

Discuss:

- How is this church living out the values of the good Samaritan in their community?
- What are some of the ways our world has robbed and wounded people?
- How can we as a church, and you as students, bring hope to people who are wounded and hurting?
- What are some ways that we can offer generosity to needy people?

Share the following statistics:



- Louisiana ranks 14th in the country in homelessness.
- 94,000 Children in Louisiana have an incarcerated parent.
- One out of six children live in extreme poverty.
- 1615 confirmed and suspected victims of human trafficking received services in 2023.

Ask: When you think of these problems, what response should churches take to help solve them? Invite the group to share ideas.

6. Bring it Home

Mention that through the Georgia Barnette Offering, we have an ability to make a difference in the lives of hurting Louisianians and share the gospel of Jesus to solve their greatest eternal need for salvation.

7. Pray

Have a prayer time for Louisiana and the Georgia Barnette Louisiana Missions Offering. Invite them to pray for the needs and the people they encountered in this study.

[1]<https://www.livingstonparishnews.com/stories/how-the-homelessness-problem-in-louisiana-compares-to-other-states,12831>

[2]<https://lumcfs.org/advocacy/louisianas-children-numbers/>

[3]<https://lumcfs.org/advocacy/louisianas-children-numbers/>

[4]<https://www.alliesagainstslavery.org/lighthouse-data-louisiana>

For more resources, visit:
GEORGIA BARNETTE.ORG

