

GOING WHERE NEEDED: A LOUISIANA MISSIONS YOUTH STUDY

STUDENTS

PURPOSE:

To challenge youth to understand and respond to God's call to reach their communities through the Georgia Barnette Louisiana Missions Offering.

SCRIPTURE:

Mark 1:38 (CEV), Mark 2:1-12

OPENING ACTIVITY (15 MIN)

BARRIER BREAKTHROUGH

MATERIALS:

Several rolls of masking tape, large sheets of paper, markers

SETUP:

1. Divide youth into teams of 4-5.
2. Give each team tape, paper, and markers.
3. Challenge: Create a "wall" across a doorway or section of the room using only the materials provided.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. After teams construct their barriers, have them write on the paper walls different obstacles that prevent people from hearing about Jesus (examples: cultural differences, language barriers, lack of churches, etc.).
2. Once complete, gather everyone together.
3. Ask: "What would it take to break through these barriers to reach someone with God's love?"
4. Allow volunteers to physically break through the paper walls.

DEBRIEF:

"Tonight we're talking about going beyond barriers to reach people with the gospel—just like Jesus did, and just like missionaries in Louisiana are doing today through the Georgia Barnette Louisiana Missions Offering."

BIBLE STORY (20 MIN)

JESUS' MISSION PRIORITY

READ MARK 1:35-38 (CEV):

"Very early the next morning, Jesus got up and went to a place where he could be alone and pray. Simon and the others searched for him, and when they found him, they

said, 'Everyone is looking for you!' Jesus replied, 'We must go to the nearby towns, so that I can tell the good news to those people. This is why I have come.'"

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What was Jesus doing when the disciples found him? Why do you think this was important before his next decision?
2. The disciples basically told Jesus, "You're popular here! Everyone wants you!" Why might it have been easier for Jesus to stay in Capernaum?
3. What reason did Jesus give for needing to move on to other towns?

KEY POINT:

Jesus prioritized his mission over popularity and comfort. He was clear about his purpose: to proclaim the good news to as many people as possible.

BIBLE STUDY (20 MIN)

BREAKING BARRIERS TO REACH JESUS

READ MARK 2:1-12:

Have different students read 2-3 verses each.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What problem did the four friends face when trying to bring the paralyzed man to Jesus?
2. What creative solution did they find? What barriers did they have to overcome?
3. What does verse 5 tell us about the relationship between the four friends' actions and Jesus' response?
4. How would you describe the determination of these four friends? What motivated them?
5. What barriers exist in our community that might prevent people from encountering Jesus?
6. What "roofs" might we need to break through to help people meet Jesus today?

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LOUISIANA MISSIONS (15 MIN)

THE HARVEST FIELD

SHARE:

"Just like Jesus felt compelled to go to nearby towns and just like the four friends broke through barriers to bring someone to Jesus, the Georgia Barnette Louisiana Missions Offering helps Louisiana Baptists reach people across our state."

LOUISIANA MISSION FACTS:

↓ **DOWNLOAD FACTS:** georgiabarnette.org/study

1. Show a map highlighting Louisiana's diverse regions.
2. Share key statistics: 4.6+ million people, 1 in 5 in poverty, recurring disaster needs, etc.
3. Explain what the Georgia Barnette Offering supports: disaster relief, church planting, compassion ministries, etc.

FOLLOWING JESUS' EXAMPLE (10 MIN)

SHANNON BROWN AND ESL (ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE)

WATCH:

Share the video of Shannon's ESL Story

↓ **DOWNLOAD AT:** georgiabarnette.org/esl

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. How was Shannon's experience similar to Jesus' mission described in Mark 1:38?
2. What barriers did Shannon and her family break through to share God's love?
3. How might seemingly small acts of hospitality create opportunities for sharing the gospel?

RESPONSE ACTIVITY (15 MIN)

BREAKING THROUGH

MATERIALS:

Smartphone/tablet with mapping app, large paper "roof tiles," markers

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Use a mapping app to identify communities within 30 miles of your church.
2. Write these community names on paper "roof tiles."

3. On each tile, have students write:

- One need they know exists in that community.
- One way your youth group could help meet that need.
- One prayer for that community.

4. Create a display by arranging these tiles on a wall or board.

GROUP DISCUSSION:

1. Which of these communities is God calling us to "go to" like Jesus went to nearby towns?
2. What "roofs" would we need to break through to reach people there?
3. How could the Georgia Barnette Offering help support ministry in these places?

PERSONAL CHALLENGE (10 MIN)

THIS IS WHY I GO

SILENT REFLECTION:

Have students reflect on these questions privately, writing responses in their journals or phones:

1. What is YOUR purpose as a follower of Jesus in Louisiana?
2. What nearby "towns" (people groups, communities, friends) is God calling you to go to?
3. What barriers might you need to break through to reach them?
4. How could you support Louisiana missions through the Georgia Barnette Offering?

CLOSING (10 MIN)

PRAYER STATIONS

Set up three simple prayer stations:

1. **Map Station:** Louisiana map - pray for specific communities.
2. **Barrier Station:** Small "roof" symbols - pray for barriers to be broken.
3. **Mission Station:** Information about Georgia Barnette projects - pray for missionaries.

Close with a group prayer, commissioning students to be on mission in their "nearby towns."



FOR MORE RESOURCES, VISIT GEORGIABARNETTE.ORG

