

Loving Our Neighbor

Month: Mar.

Week #: 29

Day: b. Tues. Time: 30 min.

**Where Can I Help?**

Life Tree Learning Systems ©

Objectives/Aims

The students will: brainstorm to make a list of people or situations in need of assistance which they can realistically help.

Materials

white board, markers, one note card per student, pencils

Illustration

The boy in the background is trying to figure out how he can help... Hey! I think he has an idea!

Background

As Americans, many of us are extremely well off. Even our middle class, in comparison to many third world countries, lives better than many a king or queen of bygone days. In contrast there are those, especially in developing countries or in a community where a disaster has struck, suffering from a lack of the most basic human necessities: food, water, clothing and shelter.



Many of the students will be moved after the previous day's activity to

want to help those in need. However, many of these needy areas are far from the student's home. Due to the distance involved, sending money is usually the chosen way to help. This is good, but it often precludes the student from being personally involved in meeting the needs of others and it is this personal involvement that can lead to a transformational experience for the student. In the following group activity it is important to guide the students toward situations and needs in which they can be personally involved and can realistically help remedy.

Group Activity

1. Review what was learned in the previous day's activity.
2. Say, "You don't need to raise your hands when I ask you this question. Just answer it in your head. After yesterday's experience do you want to help someone in need, to make a difference in their life? The reason I ask this question is because if you're going to really help someone else you need to do it because you really want to and not because you have to. This means that the following activities will be optional, so you don't have to participate unless you want to."
3. Say, "Today we're going to brainstorm a list of situations in which people are in need. These situations do not need to be as dire as the ones we imagined yesterday. You might have heard about these situations on the news or heard some people talking about it or even noticed the situation on your own. When I say 'brainstorming' I mean that we're going to try and think of as many situations as possible without commenting or critiquing them. When you're thinking of possible situations, think of ones that you can be personally involved in and you can realistically

### **Group Activity (continued)**

help remedy (e.g.: an elderly person that lives across the street has a small dog that needs walking, your mom is busy with a new baby and needs help around the house, etc.) and that you can do by this Friday.” Write the heading ‘Situations’ on the board and under it list the students’ thoughts, editing and paraphrasing for brevity and accuracy whenever necessary. The teacher can also share ideas to ‘prime the pump.’

4. When the students have run out of ideas discuss what the needs are in each situation if they aren’t self-evident. Then say, “I’d like you to look carefully at our list of situations and decide on one that you’d like to do. Remember that you don’t have to participate in this activity unless you choose to. I’m going to give you each a note card. On the top line write the situation that you’d like to help remedy. If you’re not going to participate just leave the card blank. Next, list the strategies that you’ll use to meet this need.” If necessary, remind the students of the “Picking Your Arrows” lesson that they had earlier in the year. “Finally, put ‘Do by Friday!’ on the bottom of the card. When you are done you can fold your card and put it in your pocket or backpack to take home.”

### **Group Discussion Questions**

1. When we studied famous peace makers like Dr. King, Ghandi, and Mr. Rogers, what did they all have in common?

A: They all helped other people.

2. How do think you’ll feel once you complete this activity?

A: Good, proud, happy, etc. Say, “If you chose not to fill in a card you can always fill it in later if you change your mind.”

3. Why is it important to help others?

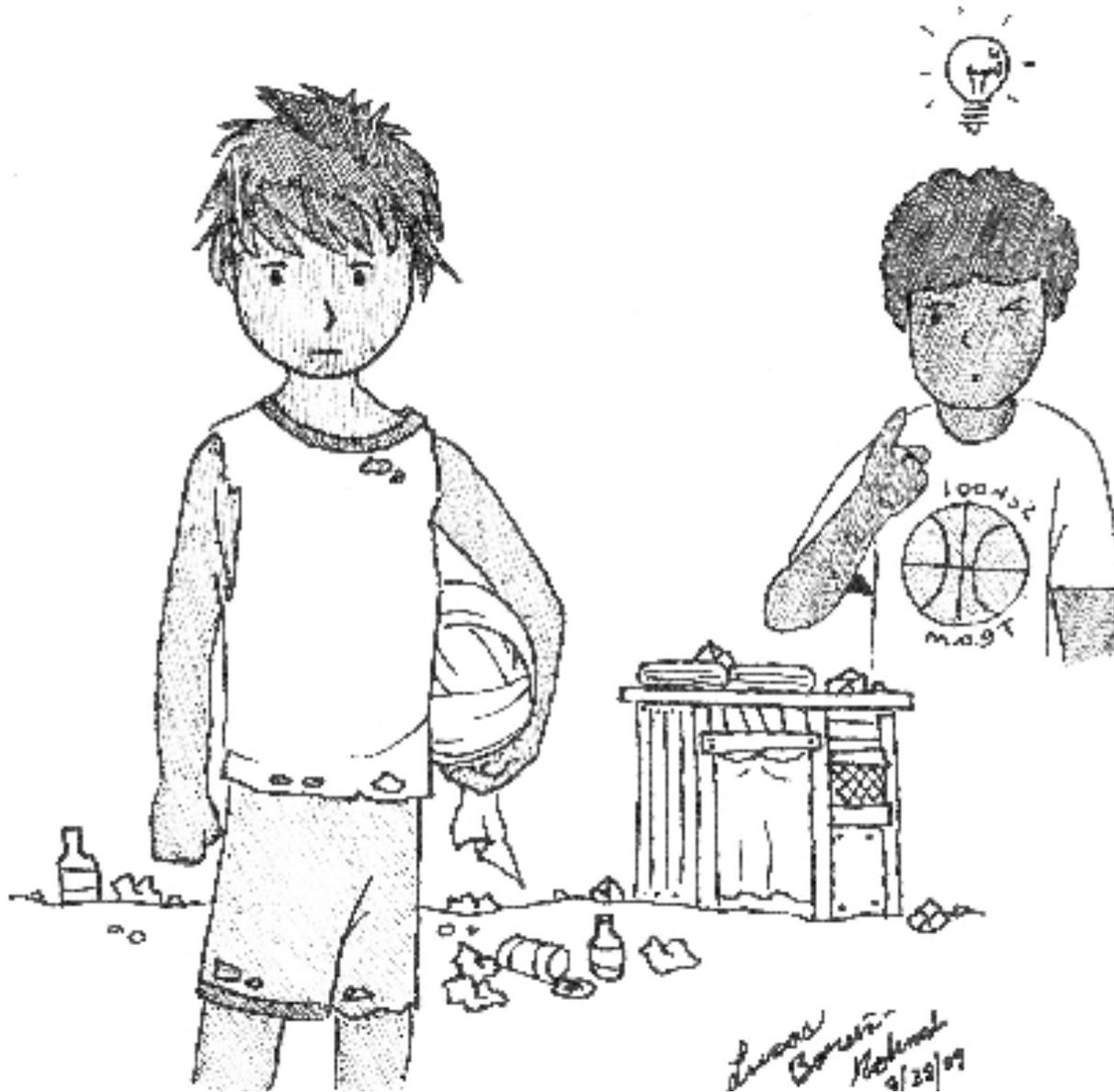
A: It makes you feel good, it’s how we’d want to be treated in a similar situation, etc.

### **Variations/Extensions**

#### **Conclusion**

Say, “Just think: you can be just like those famous peace makers and help other people too. You might be thinking that what you’re going to do isn’t a big deal, but just imagine what the world would be like if everybody helped somebody else who was in need. Wouldn’t that be great!? Like Georges Bernanos said, “Little things seem nothing, but they give peace, like those meadow flowers which individually seem odorless but all together perfume the air.” And by the way, it is a big deal to the person that you help. He or she will know that somebody cares.”

Loving Our Neighbor: Where Can I Help?



**The boy in the background is trying to figure out how he can help...  
Hey! I think he has an idea!**