

HELPING FAMILIES CONNECT

A RESOURCE BY:

LeaderTreks
YOUTH MINISTRY®

We believe that parents are the primary faith influencers in the lives of their children, and we want to provide you with helpful tools and resources to connect with your students during this difficult time.

Included in this download, you'll find three at-home activities. These are meaningful activities designed for you and your student(s) to do together. For each activity you'll find instructions, discussion questions, and a prayer prompt.

We hope that these activities not only inspire good conversations, but allow you to encourage and care for your students even in the midst of quarantine.

ACTIVITY #1 - WE NEED JESUS

ACTIVITY #2 - EFFECTIVE COMPASSION

ACTIVITY #3 - LIFE MAPS

ACTIVITY #1 - WE NEED JESUS

*The news can be an intimidating thing for students. They have access to unlimited amounts of information, but they may need help to distinguish facts and opinions. Take this time to help your student(s) process the current world events. **Use this activity to illustrate everyone's need for Jesus during this time.***

INSTRUCTIONS

Watch a newscast together (on the internet or on TV). We encourage you to pick a 30-minute newscast that covers stories from around the world rather than a 24-hour cable news shows that last all day.

As you watch, encourage your student(s) to look for who in each news story needs Jesus. Ask them to think through what those individuals specifically need Jesus to do (e.g., healing, provision, guidance).

DISCUSS

- Who in each news story needs Jesus?
- What do they need Jesus to do?
- How often do you recognize your own need for Jesus?
- What causes us to forget our need for Jesus?
- How does our family need Jesus right now?
- What do you need him to do right now?

PRAY

Spend time praying together that Jesus will intervene on behalf of those mentioned in the news stories and in your own lives. We encourage you to keep a list of prayer requests and how Jesus has responded.

ACTIVITY #2 - EFFECTIVE COMPASSION

*Our priority as parents is to build a family that is dedicated to following Jesus, and current events present a great opportunity for us to teach about compassion. **Use this activity to help your student(s) learn to care for others in a way that shows love and honors Jesus.***

INSTRUCTIONS

Do an internet search for “Hope Award for Effective Compassion.” This will bring you to the World News Group’s archive containing a directory of over 11 years of finalists for WORLD’s Hope Award for Effective Compassion. This award honors a few of the self-sacrificing Christian helpers in neighborhoods throughout the United States.

Read (separately or together) about stories of compassion and what moved different people to action. Try to read from multiple categories such as: babies, community, disabilities, homelessness, immigration, medical, prison, etc.

DISCUSS

- What category tugs at your heart the most?
- What story impacted you the most? What stood out to you about that story?
- What keeps you from showing compassion to others?
- How have you seen others step up to show compassion during the current crisis?
- What could our family do to make a difference in the present situation?

PRAY

Spend time praying that Jesus will help your family show compassion to others in the coming weeks. Brainstorm ways that you could give your time, talents, and treasures to serve your community.

ACTIVITY #3 - LIFE MAPS

*A life map is a visual representation (often a timeline) of the twists and turns of your life. For many students and families, COVID-19 is a major and unexpected turn of events. **Use this activity to encourage your student(s) to look back at how God has been faithful in the past.***

INSTRUCTIONS

Think back over your entire life, and create a list of the most meaningful moments. They could be happy or sad. Be sure to include both, because life isn't always one or the other.

Then find or create an image or symbol to represent each of those moments. Place those images on the timeline of your life. Place positive/happy events above the line and sad/negative events below it.

Share the timeline with other family members and get their perspective on God's hand in each milestone.

DISCUSS

- As you look at your life, do you see more happy or sad moments?
- What is the most significant event on your timeline?
- At what point on your timeline did you begin to take your relationship with Jesus seriously?
- How has God worked each event for his purposes and your good?

PRAY

Spend time thanking God for how he has been faithful in your lives. Ask him to give your family the faith to believe he will continue to be faithful even in your present circumstances.