

# RANDOM ACTS OF GOODNESS [good deeds—Proverbs 3]

## THIS WEEK

Teenagers often are bombarded with actions or activities that are to be avoided. They are encouraged less frequently to engage in actions and activities that do good to those they have the power to help. It is these acts that spell out the reality of faith to others. This TalkSheet encourages your young people to explore options that can stretch their faith in practical ways.

## OPENER

What if each of your kids could be president of the United States for one day—with the power to do all kinds of things? Have your students share what they would do if they had that kind of power at their fingertips. Some may suggest ideas that are self-serving or unrealistic—others may come up with ideas that are very positive. The point is that all of them would use the power available to them for something. Let your group know that they will be discussing how they can use the power they have right now.

## THE DISCUSSION, BY NUMBERS

1. Help your young people see that the obligation to help those in need extends universally. Brainstorm ways that a young person could help someone who was hungry and cold in a faraway land. Guide them to specific ideas—such as sponsoring a child through Compassion International ([www.ci.org](http://www.ci.org)) or World Vision ([www.wvi.org](http://www.wvi.org)), supporting church missionaries working in poor countries, and so on.
2. Discuss the answers with your group. Point out that it is the duty of every Christian to do good when people have the opportunity. But how hard or easy is it to do good? What if your friends are around or you don't have time? You may want to read the story of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:30-36) for one example.
3. Give the students a chance to discuss and explore practical ways that they might do good with the power they have at home, at school, at work, and at church. What are some ways that they can influence people around them starting today?
4. How did your kids answer this one? What difference does it make knowing that they have responsibility? Take some time to talk through these answer with your kids.

## THE CLOSE

Challenge the students to consider putting their faith into action—in small but powerful ways. They may not have people starving for food near them, but they probably know kids who are starving for acceptance and kindness. They can express thanks and gratitude to parents, teachers, and friends. And they can serve in simple ways, by washing the church van or by helping a brother or sister with stuff around the house. What practical things they can do right here, right now?

## MORE

- You may want to plan a reach-out or service event with your group—maybe by cleaning a portion of the church, preparing and delivering a meal for a shut-in, or another viable project. Or look into something more long-term, like supporting a child overseas or becoming a missionary partner. For more information, check out Compassion International, World Vision, or [www.YouthSpecialties.com](http://www.YouthSpecialties.com) for more links and service-related information and resources.
- Split your group up into small groups and have them check out the Bible for more verses on helping others and showing God's love. If God clearly shows that doing good is a good thing, why have people and society given do-gooders a bad rap? Why has doing good become a negative thing among some people? Point out that those who love God want to do good—out of love and gratitude to God. What attitudes are your kids mirroring to each other and to others around them?