

Date Used: _____

Group: _____

THE I CARE PROJECT

Topic: Christian Social Action

Purpose of this Session:

Christ has called Christians to the task of transforming the world. We make a grave error in focusing only on personal salvation (Romans 3:23, 24) and transformation (Romans 12:2). The kingdom of God (Matthew 4:17), or a transformed world that takes seriously the love, forgiveness, justice, and mercy spoken of by Christ, is the will of God for our society now, not just in the hereafter. Use this TalkSheet to examine the role kids can play as God's servants in transforming society.

To Introduce the Topic:

Bring with you to the group meeting a number of recent newspapers. Pass these out to small groups of kids. Tell the kids they have three minutes to look through the papers and identify as many societal problems as they can within the time limit. Give each group a piece of paper and a pencil to write down the identified problems. List these problems on a chalkboard or on newsprint as kids read them aloud, one group at a time.

The Discussion:

Item #1: Have the group members list additional caring projects that exist in their community and church. Explore with the group what your community would be like if none of these caring projects existed.

Item #2: Young people believe they can sometimes make a difference, but they are skeptical about the state of the world. They have been exposed at school and through the media to a world filled with crime, pollution, and problems. Ask for examples of how kids can make a difference. Refer back to the problems identified in the introductory activity, and ask which ones young people could help solve.

Item #3: After discussing each of the questions, take one or two projects the kids might want to do together and plan out, step by step, what they'll need to do for the caring projects to be successful.

Item #4: You will also want to discuss why more adults don't get involved in caring projects.

Item #5: Justice, mercy, and compassion to the oppressed are not common sermon themes, but they are the will of God. Examine these concepts with the kids, and ask why these are important to God.

To Close the Session:

Return to your newspaper problems and explore further how Christians can have a major impact on these societal problems. End with a reading and short discussion of the parable of the good Samaritan found in Luke 10:29-37.

Challenge the young people to get involved. Tell the kids that in the past there was a motto that said kids should be seen and not heard, but today young people are needed to help change the world for Jesus Christ.