

Core Values

Huddle 6: *Culturally Engaged*



SETTING THE ATMOSPHERE

As children arrive, collect the "In" slips and see which grade they are in for their huddle teams. Remember to check all slips to make sure children are to be in Up & Out this hour.

Team Time

Each team leader (student leader) should spend time getting a conversation started within the team to find out more about each child. Spend time today discussing the following questions up front...

- Have you ever volunteered anywhere?
- Have you ever worked alongside your parents for Just Serve day or another community event?
- What was the experience like?

Huddle Teams

- 1st & 2nd grade girls
- 1st & 2nd grade boys
- 3rd & 4th grade girls
- 3rd & 4th grade boys

Opening Prayer

Leader prays for the group

LESSON HUDDLE

Let's all come over together and get started this morning. Good morning, Up & Out! Where we look up (pause for the group to respond) **TO GOD** and look out (Pause) **TO OTHERS**.

Who can name 1 of the 5 Core Values we have talked about so far in this series?

1. Biblically Oriented
2. Prayerfully Dependent
3. Faithfully Gathered
4. Courageously Generous
5. Ministry Focused

Last week we talked about Core Value #5: Ministry Focused. This is how we use our gifts and talents to serve our local church. Core Value #6 is Culturally Engaged. This is similar to being Ministry Focused, but it is geared more towards reaching others outside the church. Engaging our culture is using the opportunities we may already have to communicate the message of salvation. This could be as close as our own backyard or as far as the other side of the globe!

Who can tell me what the Great Commission is?

Let's open up our Bibles to **Matthew 28:18-20**

"Jesus came and told his disciples, 'I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

In this verse, Jesus tells them to go and to make what? (*Disciples*) And what is a disciple? (*A Christ follower*) What is so great about being a Christ follower? (*He paid the price of death for our sins, He offers us the free gift of salvation, we can have life everlasting*) Some of you are still learning about who God is and what Christ has done for us, so learning and asking questions is exactly what you need to be doing right now. For others, you may have made the decision in your heart to follow Jesus Christ. A few of you may have been baptized to display this decision and now you are called to let others know about the message of salvation. How can you do this? (*Tell friends about what Christ has done/is doing in your life, Invite family/friends to come to church and/or camp with you, offer to pray with someone who is down, etc*) You don't have to preach the Bible on the corner of the street to be Culturally Engaged. We have so many opportunities to share about Jesus in the relationships we have already, we just need to be willing to take advantage of those opportunities that we have.

Can anyone think of 3 friends or family members that you have that do not go to church? You may have an opportunity to share with them who God is or invite them to come with you to church. This is one example of being culturally engaged right where you are. Has anyone here had a parent or family member that has traveled somewhere on a Mission's trip? This is also a way to be culturally engaged by bringing the message of salvation to others that may not live near us. Our church supports a variety of ministries here in the Upstate of South Carolina, as well as several overseas. One of which is in Kenya. Who knows where Kenya is? It is a country on the eastern coast of Africa. OVC Kenya is a non-profit organization in Central Kenya that works with the local church to support children who are orphaned or vulnerable. Grace Church partners specifically with church leadership in Limuru, Kenya to help support 67 of these children and students. In 2020 and 2021 we celebrated 5 students who have graduated.

A few years ago, Grace Church Kids helped raise funds for Irene Wanjiku, a 16-year-old girl in the OVC Kenya program. The money we raised helps annually with Irene's school fees and Christmas gifts. This includes the cost of her tuition, her uniforms, textbooks, and daily lunch. Not only will Irene be provided with an education, she will have the opportunity to develop life skills and grow mentally, emotionally, and spiritually through the protection of the local church. Our hope is that by investing in Irene and other OVC Kenya students long-term, we can help break the cycle of poverty within the community in Central Kenya.

Let's pray, asking God to show us opportunities where we can be Culturally Engaged with those around us and with those around the world and to give us the courage to take those opportunities.

Huddle Up, Pray, & Break



ACTIVITY: Letter to Irene

Today we thought a great way for us to practice being culturally engaged was to write Irene a letter to see how she is doing. We are going to read Irene's profile, brainstorm some ideas on the white board, and then decide what to include on our class letter. We will all get a chance to sign our names and draw pictures if you would like. This letter will travel with the next team from our church that goes to Kenya.

Materials Needed:

- 1 sheet of 11x17 paper or Sheet of Construction Paper
- Markers
- Irene Profile

(Note to teachers: There will be a time delay for her receiving this card so do not include certain dates/holidays; do not allude to visiting her or her coming to the states, etc. Ideas to include: questions about her school and hobbies, the student's favorite Bible verses, encouraging words.)

ACTIVITY: Core Values Hang-Man

Materials Needed:

- Whiteboard
- Dry Erase marker

Let a student write one of the 6 core values on the board for a game of Hangman. The winner can write a different core value on his turn. Play continues until students lose interest.

ACTIVITY: Bingo

- Printed Bingo cards from Core Values Huddle I
- 1 set of Books of the Bible cards from Core Values Huddle I
- Markers/coins/cheerios



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