



TOGETHER WE TRIUMPH:

YOUTH RESPONSE TO DISASTER

STUDENT ACTIVITY GUIDE

sponsored by
Presbyterian World Service, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
United Methodist Committee on Relief, United Methodist Church

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MODULE 1

All in the same boat

Instructions for playing

Scenario:

There has been a terrible flood in our town and you are all waiting on the roof of a garage to be rescued. The rescue boat can hold only 4 people including the rescuers. The others will have to wait for another boat or helicopter. The water is rising rapidly, and it is getting dark. It is estimated that the water will rise above roof level in approximately 10 minutes. The electricity has been cut off by the flood. Your only light is from the flashlight.

Step 1.

The two rescuers will get into the boat (the piece of paper in the center of the room). The people waiting to be rescued must stay on the roof (behind the line).

Step 2.

The leader will set the timer for 10 minutes. When the leader says "GO" the group to be rescued must decide quickly who will get into the boat first and who will stay behind. The group must make this decision collectively and be in agreement.

Step 3.

The group will place armbands on the people to be rescued. Then the group and the rescuers will assist those persons into the "boat" without losing anyone in the "water". If anyone falls or gets both feet into the "water" (space between the roof and the boat), that person is considered "lost." "Lost" persons must sit quietly on the sidelines. When the first boat load is rescued (everyone is in the boat), the time is announced, and those rescued go quietly to another part of the room.

The process of decision-making, arm-banding, and rescue is continued until all are rescued or the time runs out.

Step 4.

When all are rescued or the timer rings, bring the "lost" souls back to life, and everyone goes back to the big circle for discussion using the questions above.

Questions for Discussion

1. How did your group decide who would be rescued first?
2. How did it feel to be one of those being rescued?
3. How did it feel to stay behind?
4. How did it feel to be "lost" or to lose a member of your group?

WHAT IS A DISASTER?

A disaster is a devastating, catastrophic event that can be life-threatening or injury producing, and which may create the following distressing experiences...

Potential experiences and reactions

- ☉ Sense of fear and worry
- ☉ Disruption of home and routine
- ☉ Witnessing of injuries, death, pain
- ☉ Feeling that one's life is in danger
- ☉ Being out of control of things that threaten one's basic survival: food, shelter, clothing, family members, comfort and even life itself
- ☉ Having flashbacks to other catastrophes
- ☉ Being separated from loved ones
- ☉ Having a sense of mortality
- ☉ Feeling "survivor guilt"



In addition, children may feel that they need to become "parents" to adults who are scared or worried. This creates inappropriate stress and responsibility for the children.

Source: FEMA 219/Nov 91, used by permission.

BIBLE STUDY

Luke 10:29-37

If I were the person who had been robbed and beaten, I would feel

...and I would do

If I were the priest going by, I would feel

...and I would do

If I were the Samaritan, I would feel

...and I would do

If I were the innkeeper, I would feel

... and I would do

Some Hard Questions About Disasters

Disasters sometimes cause us to ask some difficult questions about God and about our faith. Listed below are some of those questions. What others can you think of?

1. Some people think that God causes disasters to punish people for their sins. What is your reaction to that idea?
2. How should Christians respond to "Acts of God"?
3. Why would God allow natural disasters to kill little children?
4. Couldn't God stop the disasters from happening?

My questions:

Closing Prayer

We praise you, Our God and Creator, for your awesome power to create form and life and to change and even destroy form and life. Help us to grow in our understanding of your purposes in your universe. May we always appreciate the great mystery even as we learn how to survive and recover from painful and devastating events in our lives and in our world. Teach us to respect your ways and to be quiet and know that you alone are God. Guide us as we study and learn together about how we can be part of your church responding to disasters. In the name of Jesus the Christ. Amen

MODULE 2

Big Muddy

June 28

The swirling, muddy waters of the Mississippi River come right through the doors and windows of the Sandez house. Sandbags have kept the water away for a little while, but now there is no stopping this flowing monster. Joey has just turned five years old. He grips his new truck as his mother, holding a flashlight in one hand, picks him up and steps out on the porch roof. Joey's older sisters, Elena who is fourteen and Samantha who is eight, were picked up a few hours earlier and taken to their grandparents' house many miles up the river. Now a police boat is chugging slowly toward Joey and his mother.

June 30

Joey's father is bagging sand and loading the bags on trucks. Crews working round the clock are hoping to protect the town from more serious damage. He wonders about his family. He has not been able to phone them or get to them for three days.

July 2

Elena and Sam finally see their father. He tells them that their mother and Joey spent a night in a hospital and then were taken to a Red Cross shelter for a few nights. "Joey just isn't acting right", he says. "He won't eat or let your mom out of his sight. I guess he was pretty scared." Their grandmother took the father aside and said, "The girls are quarreling a lot and Sam won't go to bed at night. I don't know what's got into them."

July 3

The family is finally reunited. Elena cries when she sees her mother. Sam is pulling on her mother and jumping up and down, trying to tell her what she has seen on television about the awful flood. Joey clings to his mother's leg and does not say anything. Soon Joey's father leaves in his truck to drive back to their house to see what damage has been done. He doesn't say much either.

July 21

A five year old boy is checked into a Cooperative Disaster Child Care (CDCC) center at a Federal Disaster Application Center (DAC) in St. Charles, Missouri. His mother must stand in a long line with other flood survivors waiting to be interviewed and to fill in forms so that she can get clothing and food for her family and some help in finding a place to live. This family's house floated away during the flood and they lost almost everything they owned.

EDITOR'S NOTE:

The following story tells actual events that occurred after severe 1993 Mississippi River flooding.

The FEMA Center has been set up in a huge sports arena. It is raining hard outside and the noise inside is deafening. The child care center is in a corner, using tables and chairs as makeshift walls.

The child does not speak. He does not cry. He stares vacantly out of his pale hollow face in the direction his mother has gone. Jenny, the CDCC caregiver who holds him, speaks quietly to him. "Joey, look. Your mommy is right over there. She will come back when she has finished her work over there. I'll be here with you until she comes back." No response. "Why don't we sit right here and just see what's here." No response except a stiffening of his tiny body.

Jenny sits on the floor in a corner with a couple of teddy bears and other dolls and stuffed animals. Another child plays near-by with small emergency vehicles, making siren noises. Joey covers his ears and snuggles up against Jenny with his thumb in his mouth. She notices that his pants are wet so she wraps a blanket around him. She picks up a soft teddy bear and holds it next to her on her other knee. She begins to sing to the teddy bear. Joey peeks up at Jenny and then hides his head again in her lap.

After more than three hours, Joey's mother returns for her child. She looks anxiously past Maria, the caregiver who helps her sign her son out. She sees Joey sitting next to a dishpan filled with cornmeal with his back to the entrance. He is scooping cornmeal into paper cups. "I am filling sandbags with my daddy." Joey says to Jenny. "See how fast I can work?"

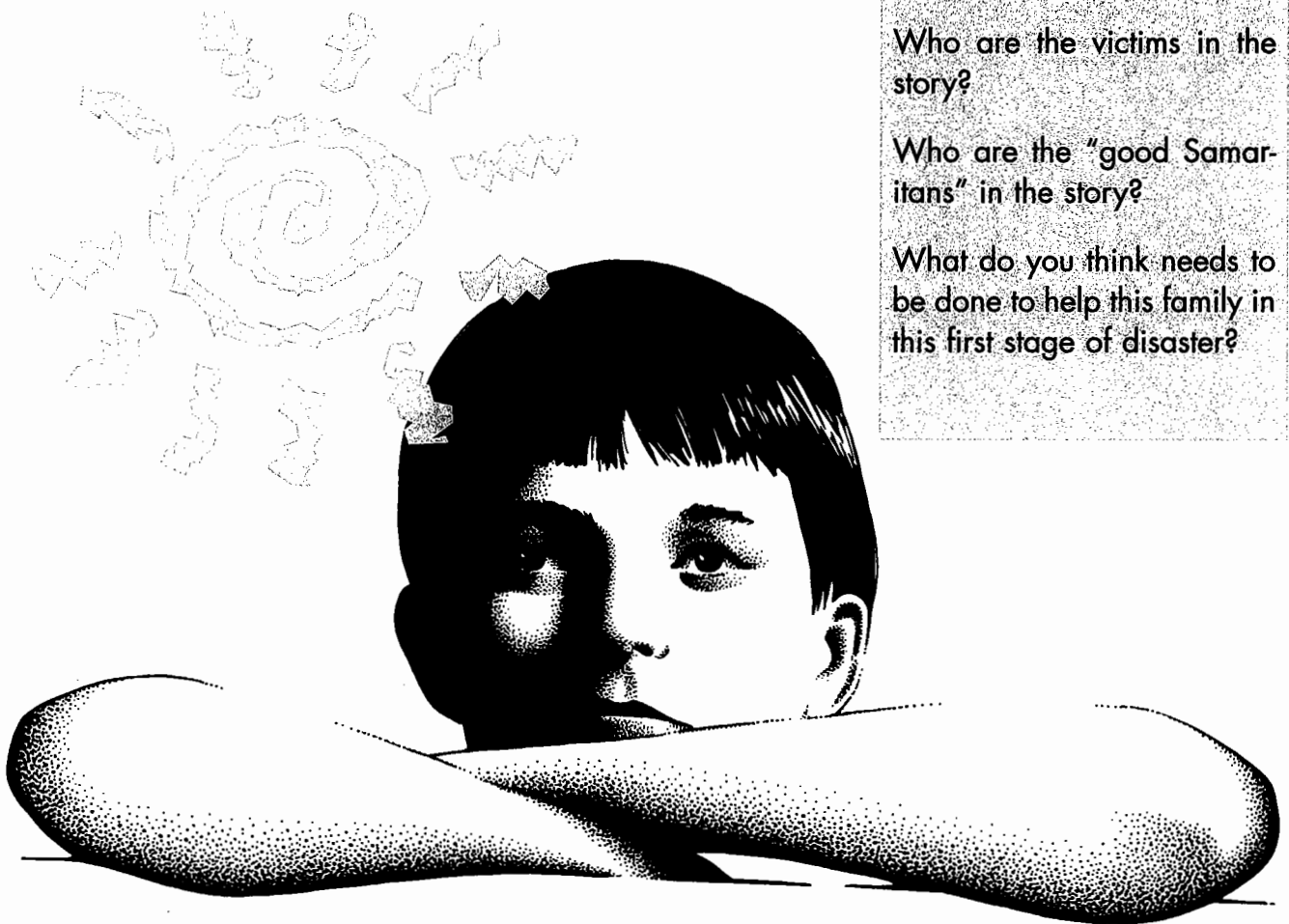
Joey's mother's eyes get wide and her mouth drops open. Through tears, she tells Maria, "Those are the first words I have heard him speak since the night of our rescue. You see... what happened..." She chokes up. "When I was handing Joey off our porch roof to the fireman in the boat, the boat suddenly moved away. But it was too late. I lost my hold on Joey and dropped him in the water. I dropped him!" she cried. "My baby went under and it was very dark and raining. It took a long time to find him. Joey nearly drowned before they pulled him out. Joey hasn't talked since then."



Maria, put her hand on the sobbing mother's arm and said, "I know how frightened you must have been. What an awful feeling, to think you might lose your child. I am so glad he is here safe with us and with you." Maria smiled at the mother. "Come, let Joey show you what he is doing over here."

When Joey and his mother left the center, Maria handed the mother a couple of pamphlets. "Here are some tips that might help you understand what Joey is going through. And here is the name of the person over at the family services desk to contact, if you want someone to talk to about your experience."

To be continued...



Questions for discussion

What do you think members of the Sandez family were feeling as the flood waters were rising around their house?

What did you notice about the children's behavior in the story? Why do you think they were acting that way?

Who are the victims in the story?

Who are the "good Samaritans" in the story?

What do you think needs to be done to help this family in this first stage of disaster?

STAGES OF DISASTER

A **disaster** is an occurrence such as cyclone, hurricane, tornado, storm, flood, tidal wave, fire, explosion, contamination, war, or other natural or human-caused situation that causes human suffering or creates human needs that the survivors cannot alleviate without assistance.

Stages of Disaster

A disaster usually has three stages or phases:

Emergency Stage

First responders may include family, neighbors, congregations, Red Cross, local fire and police departments, and search and rescue teams. The emergency stage usually lasts 1 to 3 days but in more severe disasters it can continue for as long as two weeks. In that case, the Relief and Recovery stages are also prolonged proportionately.

Relief/Rehabilitation Stage

Medical services, food and temporary shelter are needed. The relief stage usually lasts about ten times as long as the emergency stage.

Recovery/Reconstruction Stage

Homes and lives begin to be rebuilt. Emotional and spiritual renewal is needed in addition to physical healing. The recovery stage usually lasts about ten times as long as the Relief Stage.

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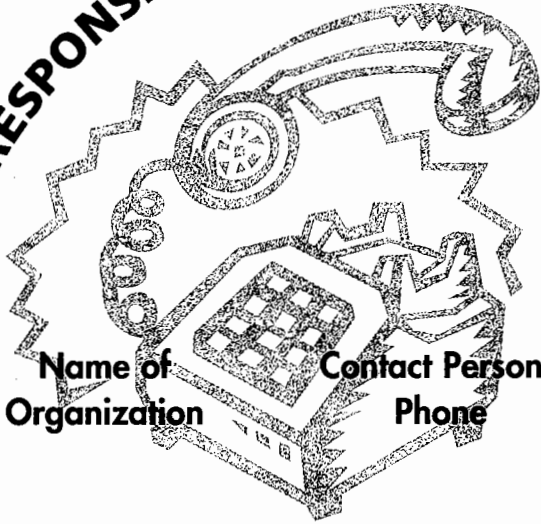
EMERGENCY RESPONSE INFORMATION

**Name of
Organization**

**Contact Person/
Phone**

**Types of
Services**

1 2 3 4



CODE: 1=immediate response 2=relief operations 3=long-term recovery 4=preparedness education

Who Responds to Disasters

- American Red Cross (Check to see if there is a chapter in your county or your local municipality.)
- Salvation Army
- Civil Air Patrol
- Police Department (If you live in a metropolitan area, you may have many different police organizations such as local municipality, county, state, etc. Include all possibilities.)
- Fire Department
- Hospital Emergency Room (Is there more than one hospital in your area?)
- Emergency Medical Service
- Church World Service
- Presbyterian World Service
- United Methodist Committee on Relief
- Federal Emergency Management Agency
- NVOAD and member agencies
- Cooperative Disaster Child Care
- Poison Control Center
- Mental Health Services
- Food Programs
- Housing Agencies
- Legal Services
- Veterans Services
- Family Violence Intervention
- Habitat for Humanity



First

- ☎ Give your own name and the name of the church or group you represent.

Second

- ☎ Explain that your group is studying disaster response in preparation for (going on a work camp, planning a mission trip, helping people in disaster situations.)

Third

- ☎ Ask if it is OK to ask a few questions.

Questions to ask:

- ☎ What role do you play when a disaster occurs?
- ☎ What types of services do you provide?
- ☎ Which of the following are you involved with:
 - Immediate response
 - Relief operations
 - Long-term recovery
 - Preparedness education
- ☎ What kinds of disasters have you had to deal with?
- ☎ What other organizations do you know of that respond to disasters?
- ☎ Other questions:

BIBLE STUDY

1 Corinthians 12:12-31

If I were to use my hands to respond to disaster, I would

If I were to use my feet to respond to disaster, I would

If I were to use my nose to respond to disaster, I would

If I were to use my eyes to respond to disaster, I would

If I were to use my mouth to respond to disaster, I would

If I were to use my heart to respond to disaster, I would

What gifts of time and talent can I give to disaster relief?

Closing Prayer:

Gracious God, our world is full of noise. The noise of automobiles, of radios, of children playing, of people in shopping malls.

These are the sounds of life as we know it, rushed and busy, comfortable and easy.

Help us, above the noise of our own lives, to hear the cries of those who are less fortunate.

While we enjoy the music of wealth, others suffer the din of poverty.

While we enjoy the quiet of a nation and people at peace, others hear the crash of war.

Help us, dear God, above the joyful noise around us, to hear the cries of our neighbors.

Give us ears to hear:

people who are lonely, anxious, or in pain,
people who are defeated, afraid, or discouraged,
people who are weak, lonely, depressed,
people who struggle with problems we cannot solve
or sickness that cannot be healed.

Holy and gracious God, grant us new hearing.
Amen.



MODULE 3

Elena

September 10, 1993

School had only been open for a week and already it is feeling like a bad dream to Elena Sandez. "I am living in a trailer park in the mud. I am going to school in a trailer park in the mud. I am sick and tired of the mud. I am tired of being crowded in my house. I hate having to share a room with my little sister, Sam. She is so annoying! And these clothes are so dumb. " Elena is complaining to her girlfriend, Monica. "The worst thing is that I hardly ever get to see you anymore."

"I know," Monica says. " We used to live down the street from each other, but now the street is not even there. I don't like living where I have to live now either. I don't know anybody out there and the house isn't even finished yet. What a drag!"

"Well at least you have a nice house to live in," Elena says sadly. "My dad lost his job downtown at the hardware store because of the flood. I guess we'll never ever have a house of our own again. And my mom's sick all the time with those headaches. I am really scared she has a tumor or something."

"Come on, let's go over to the Sub Shop and do our math. I'll buy you a soft drink." Monica starts to cross the street in front of the field where several modular units are set up as classrooms. A passing truck splashes mud on her shoes and skirt. Jumping back suddenly, Monica mutters, "Will this ever end? I get so depressed. Sometimes when I can't stand these rotten feelings anymore, I just want to run away."

Side by side, they dash across the road to the new plaza that is being constructed there. "Don't leave me behind," Elena tells Monica. "You are my only friend in the whole world. My parents don't care. Sam doesn't care. She is just a little brat. Dad is always taking care of Joey or Mom. And I have to do all the laundry and housework. Oh, I am so mad I could cry! Why did this have to happen to my family?"

Questions for discussion:

What changes have happened in the lives of Elena and Monica because of the floods?

How do you think Elena is feeling about her family? about herself? What would help her feel better?

What things are causing stress for Elena?

Coping with Stress

How Do I Know If I'm Experiencing Negative Stress?

Stress affects everyone differently. What might indicate negative stress in you might not affect your friend the same way. However, if you find yourself in a prolonged stressful situation, there are some warning signs to look for:

- tiredness, even when you have gotten enough sleep
- changes in eating or sleeping habits
- inability to concentrate
- moodiness, frequent tears
- irritability; flashes of anger
- headaches, stomach aches, other aches and pains
- feelings of depression, fearfulness or helplessness

"Bending, Not Breaking"

What is Stress?

Stress is a unique and personal response of our bodies and minds to meet the demands that certain situations give to us. Dangerous or frightening situations trigger an instinctive "fight or flight" response that increases blood pressure, heart rate, respiration, and blood flow to muscles. Mentally, we focus our attention and intellect on the situation.

Biologically, these reactions are designed to help people prepare for a physical conflict or an escape from one. In our normal day-to-day activities, these responses serve to direct our mental and physical resources to a particularly difficult or trying situation, and the result is often positive. They help us to do our best work at the crucial moment on the football field, on stage, or in the classroom.

Sometimes, though, the stress-causing situations last longer than our ability to cope with them, as in the case of loss and pain caused by an accident, death, or other disaster. When this happens, we experience feelings of **distress**, or negative stress. If this negative stress is left unmanaged, it can cause health and relationship problems and make it harder to focus on school work or other tasks. We can even become physically sick as the body's ability to fight off disease becomes weakened by prolonged stress.

What Should I Do If I'm Feeling Like This?

Talk with an adult that you trust who will listen - a parent, pastor, guidance counselor, youth leader, teacher, or family doctor. Find out from your doctor whether there is any physical cause for your symptoms. With some help, you can avoid the more serious consequences of prolonged stress. Rest, a change of diet, counseling, or medical attention can make a difference in how you are feeling.

What Are Some *Stressors* for Human Beings?

- Injury
- Threats to one's well-being
- Change of location
- Frightening events
- Pain
- Loss of what is familiar and secure.

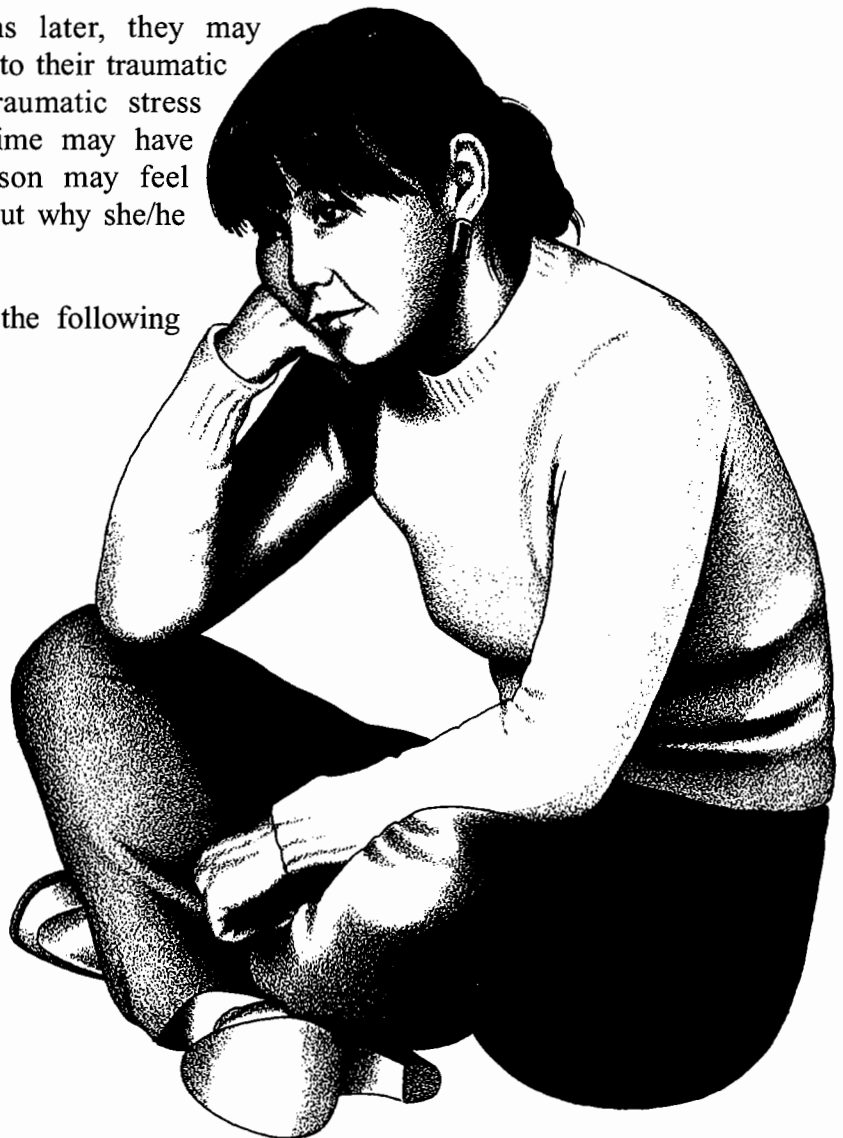
What is **Post-traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)**?

Sometimes, immediately following a disaster, people are feeling so relieved to have escaped or are so busy just recovering from injuries or cleaning up the mess that they may seem not to be experiencing emotional distress.

Then, sometimes weeks or months later, they may experience painful symptoms related to their traumatic experience. This is called post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Because some time may have passed since the disaster, the person may feel confused and have trouble figuring out why she/he feels so bad.

Adolescents with PTSD may show the following symptoms.

- poor impulse control
- rebelliousness
- suicidal behavior
- truancy
- delinquency
- bad judgment
- drug abuse
- sexual indiscretion
- relationship problems
- depression
- eating disorders
- over-achievement and burn-out
- nightmares



Stressors for Teenagers

Change and Loss

- Move to a new home or school
- Change in family situation, such as
 - separation
 - divorce
 - siblings leaving home
 - new baby in family
- Loss of special possessions or pets
- Loss of home due to a disaster or eviction

Illness or Death

- Physical illness or injury
- Long-term or permanent disability
- Illness or death of a family member
- Illness or death of a friend

Beginnings and Endings

- Beginning of a new relationship
- Ending of a relationship
- Starting a new job
- Getting fired or laid off from a job
- Beginning a new school year
- Graduation
- Getting married
- Becoming a parent

Fear and Trauma

- Frightening experiences like disasters, crimes or violent events in your home, school, or community, or seen on TV

Coping Responses for Teenagers

Support

- Talking it out with someone you can trust
- Having friends and a safe place for emotional comfort and rest
- Feeling OK about whatever you are feeling and going through

Understanding

- Reducing fear by getting the facts and finding out what is real
- Understanding the normal human reactions to stress and change and the grief process

Taking Control

- Discovering one's own strength and flexibility
- Being part of the solution and recovery
- Learning new skills through the challenges of new situations

Taking Care of Yourself

- Participating in physical exercise and activity
- Eating healthy foods
- Getting rest
- Avoiding self-medicating (drugs and alcohol)
- Getting necessary medical care

Time

- Knowing that adjusting to change and healing from physical or emotional hurts takes time and patience
- Trusting that time itself is part of the healing process

Faith

- Knowing that God loves and cares for us even in the midst of trouble
- Finding a faith community that prays for us and provides comfort and protection
- Discovering words of comfort in scripture and from Christian friends

Personal Worksheet on Stress

List some words or phrases that describe how people feel or react under intense stress.

1

Write down some kinds of pressures/stress that can be useful to human beings.

2

Write down some kinds of pressures/stress that can be harmful to human beings.

3

Personal Worksheet on Stress

Write down some situations you experience or pressures you feel that cause you negative stress.

4

Check some of the things you do when you are feeling distress (uncomfortable stress).

5

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> sleep | <input type="checkbox"/> run, work out | <input type="checkbox"/> use alcohol, drugs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> watch TV | <input type="checkbox"/> talk with a friend | <input type="checkbox"/> stay up too late |
| <input type="checkbox"/> eat junk food | <input type="checkbox"/> pick fights | <input type="checkbox"/> skip school |
| <input type="checkbox"/> play music | <input type="checkbox"/> cry a lot | <input type="checkbox"/> other _____ |

Check coping skills that you would like to practice to help you handle stress differently.

6

- find someone to talk to who will take me seriously
- pursue healthy physical activities
- learn how to help my friends
- learn to relax and stop worrying so much
- learn how to blow off anger without hurting anybody
- learn how to manage my time better
- others _____

The Art of Listening

Facing

- 👁️ I show interest in you.
- 👁️ I am willing to take the time to be with you.
- 👁️ I stop what I am doing.
- 👁️ I sit down with you.
- 👁️ I make a quiet and private place.
- 👁️ I turn and face you.
- 👁️ I move close enough to let you know I care but not crowd you.
 - 👁️ **What to say:** “I am here to be with you.”
 - 👁️ “I want to hear what you have to say.”

Focusing

- 👁️ I pay attention to what you are saying and do not interrupt with my own agenda.
- 👁️ I allow you to do most of the talking.
- 👁️ I lean toward you or nod to let you know that I am listening.
 - 👁️ **What to say:** “Yes, it’s OK.”
 - 👁️ “I think I know what you mean.”
 - 👁️ “I would like to hear more.”
 - 👁️ “Then what happened?”

Feeling

- 💖 Whatever you are feeling is OK with me.
- 💖 I care about your story even when it is hard for me to hear it.
- 💖 I am not frightened by your tears or anger.
 - 💖 **What to say:** “I see you have strong feelings about...”
 - 💖 “This hurts a lot, doesn’t it?”
 - 💖 “I would cry, too.”
 - 💖 “It must be hard to talk about this.”

Affirming

- ☀️ You are important, and your story is important.
- ☀️ You are a child of God.
- ☀️ I respect you.
- ☀️ I am not in a hurry to go away.
 - ☀️ **What to say:** “Thank you for telling me your story.”
 - ☀️ “What do you think you can do now?”
 - ☀️ “I care about you and God cares about you.”
 - ☀️ “Perhaps you have some ideas about how I can help you.”

MODULE 4

Mission Project Ideas

Selecting a mission project:

To be successful, a project should be achievable in the time you have allotted to it. The project(s) your youth group chooses will depend on several factors. How much time do you have to spend on a project? What will be the cost of the project? What resources are available to you? Do you possess the necessary skills for the job? Can you be successful at what you have chosen to do? Completing a project in a satisfactory manner is important. Here are some ideas.

1. Plan a disaster response program for your church or community. Using the chart you prepared in Module 2, get in touch with organizations that respond to disasters. Ask several of the organizations to come to your church on a given evening to set up a display, do a demonstration, or give a talk on the work they do to respond to disastrous situations.
2. Take a tour of your hospital's Emergency Services Unit. Discuss what you have learned about services available in your community if there were a disaster.
3. With the help of youth leaders, pastors, and counselors, plan a Peer Counseling Training Program. Recruit friends and other students to participate in this training.
4. Send for the Family Disaster Supplies Kit from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, P.O. Box 70274, Washington DC 20024. Get your own family and other families in your church and community involved in planning for disaster.
5. Help to sponsor and organize a program for your community on teen stress and suicide. Arrange for a panel of speakers (doctor, psychologist, minister, guidance counselor, etc.) from the community who can talk about the problem and what the community is prepared to do to prevent or deal with teen suicide.
6. Conduct a Hazard Hunt in your community. Use the instructions found on page 38 of the Leader's Manual. Contact local officials to find out how they have planned to deal with emergencies that could result from such hazards. Send the results of your hunt to a local newspaper or television station.
7. Arrange to visit the state police barracks. Find out where the most dangerous places are in your community. Where do the accidents occur? What plans are there for making these places more safe?
8. Help put together clean-up kits, health kits, or food kits for Church World Service disaster response. If you write to CWS, P.O. Box 968, Elkhart, IN 46515, they will send you the information you will need to prepare the kits. The Church World Service Hotline is 1-800-456-1310.
9. Contact your church conference or presbytery office to find out what rebuilding projects may be going on in your area. Or contact Habitat for Humanity to learn what projects they are sponsoring. Plan a visit and talk to some of the volunteers. Take video or still photos and report back to your local church about your visit. Find out how your group can become involved in one of their projects.
10. Find out from your denomination's headquarters or Church World Service what work the church does in disaster response efforts. Plan a mission trip or work camp to an area of this country or another country that has experienced the devastation of flood, earthquake, hurricane, or other natural disaster.

WORKSHEET #1

Vision...

What could we achieve? This is your chance to dream. No idea is too wild! Don't make fun of anyone's ideas.

Mission Statement...

When you have finished brainstorming ideas, choose the three that are most appealing to you. Ask these questions: How much time am I able to commit? How much money do we have? What skills would we need? Can we complete this job?

.....
When the group has selected one or two projects that they have agreed that they would like to pursue, write a sentence or two about each that tells clearly what you are proposing to do and why.

Objectives...

What are some of the goals we need to set for ourselves in order to move toward our vision? Brainstorm as many as possible. Then choose 3 to 5.

Action Plan

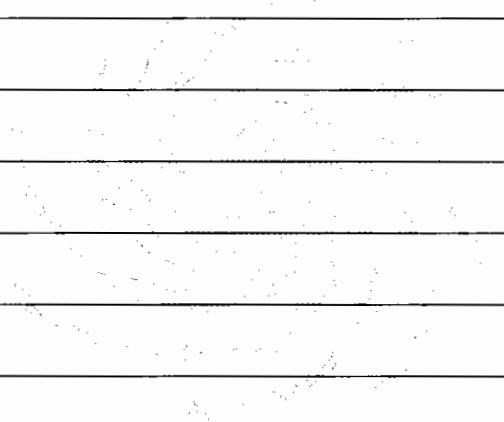
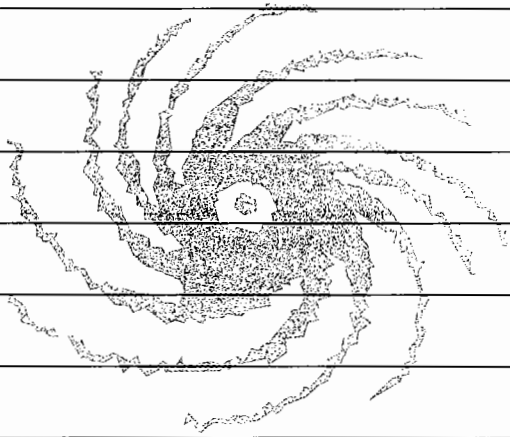
WORKSHEET #2

Action step

Who

When

Cost



Project Report

Mission Statement (What we plan to accomplish and why):

Dates:

Who Will Participate:

Expenses:

Leadership:

Plans for Fund-Raising:

BIBLE STUDY

MATTHEW 25:31-41

When I see someone who looks hungry, thirsty, or sick, I feel

and I could do

In my usual daily contacts with people, I could offer service by

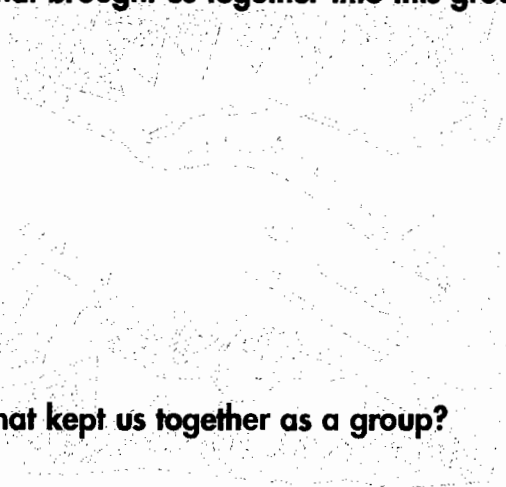
Serving others can help me by

Some judgments I sometimes make about people in need are

MODULE 5

Evaluation Sheet

What brought us together into this group in the first place?



What kept us together as a group?

What is different about our group now?

What have we accomplished?

WORSHIP PLANNING

1. When and where will this celebration occur? During regular Sunday morning?
Another time?
2. Who will be invited? The whole community? Several churches?
3. How will we promote this event? Announcements? Newspaper, posters?
4. Will we have food? A dinner? Refreshments afterwards?
5. Who do we need to get permission and support from in order to make this happen?
Minister, musicians, etc.
6. Will there be any cost? If so where does the money come from?
7. What will be the theme of the service?
8. What scripture will we use?
9. What music will we use?
10. Who will lead the service?

Scripture

Scripture

- * Genesis 1 *God creates good out of chaos*
- * Luke 13:1-5 *Jesus says suffering does not result from sin*
- * John 3:1-8 *Spiritual rebirth can come from suffering*
- * II Corinthians 4:7-10 *Christ triumphs through all trauma*
- * Luke 8:22-25 *Jesus is sovereign over the natural elements*
- * Matthew 5:14 *Christians give light in disaster's darkness*
- * Matthew 25 *It matters how we respond to others in need*
- * Psalm 46 *God is our help in time of trouble*
- * Luke 10:29-37 *The Good Samaritan*
- * I Corinthians 12:12-31 *Many gifts, same Spirit*
- * Psalm 22 *"My God, why have you forsaken me?"*
- * Ephesians 6:10-20 *Armor of God*
- * 1 John 4:7-13 *Loving one another*
- * Micah 6:6-8 *What God requires of us*
- * Galatians 6:2 *Bearing one another's burdens*

Call to Worship

In the midst of a world where cruelty abounds,

We proclaim the God of Compassion.

In the midst of despair that threatens to swallow up whole lives, whole peoples,

We proclaim the God of Hope.

In the midst of indifference and apathy,

We proclaim the God of Love.

Come let us worship together and share our witness of God's living presence in the world.

Glory be to God, Amen!

by Carol Wise, Living Waters, Worship Resources for Congregational Life, Number 19, June 1994.
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Call to Worship and Unison Invocation

One: God calls to every generation, every age. God calls children; Jesus welcomed children with open arms.

All: We remember Samuel who heard God's voice while still a child.

One: God calls youth, and makes them leaders of the people.

All: We remember Jeremiah and David who led Israel even in their youth.

One: God calls adults for various tasks of ministry.

All: We remember the disciples, men and women who followed Jesus, and our many ancestors in the faith.

One: God calls people of older years.

All: We remember Simeon and Anna, John the Evangelist, and others whose years of experience helped form our faith.

One: In thanksgiving for all generations, for all who are called by God and serve God, let us pray.

All: God of the prophets and the prophet's children, God who called our fathers and mothers of past generations, we thank you that nothing could stop people from sharing your love in word and deed. You have called us, too, O God. Use our words and deeds to express your love for all people, in this time of worship and in the experiences of each day. Amen.

by John W. Lowe, Jr., Living Waters, Worship Resources for Congregational Life, Number 19, June 1994. Published by Church of the Brethren General Board, June A. Gibble, Editor. Used by permission.

Prayers & Litanies

Prayers and Litanies

Come, Spirit, Come

One: In the beginning, the Creative Spirit moved upon the face of the deep, turning chaos into order and replacing darkness with light.

All: Come, Spirit, come and make us participants with you in the ongoing work of creation in which there is order and light.

One: When Jesus was baptized, the Spirit descended upon him like a dove, and God said, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear what he says to you."

All: Come, Holy Spirit, come and touch our lives so that we may have the assurance of your mercy and favor, so that we may boldly speak the words we have heard from Jesus.

One: After Jesus was crucified and buried, on the third day, the stone was rolled away from the tomb, the earth shook, the soldiers trembled, and his followers rejoiced. Death and the grave could not hold him!

All: Come, Holy Spirit, and remind us that we are called from death to life, from lethargy to active living, from fear to hope, from sorrow to joy.

One: On the day of Pentecost, when many persons were gathered, the Spirit came and touched them with fire and with power, strengthening their faith, enabling them to give witness to the power of the living Christ.

All: Come, Holy Spirit, come and fill us, empower us to be your disciples, give us boldness to walk in your ways, and inspire us to spread your gospel to the ends of the earth.

One: The Spirit still moves in our world. Each day we walk by God's grace and feel the touch of the heavenly dove upon our shoulders, we are able to move from anxiety to confidence, to live as ones chosen to do God's will.

All: Come, Holy Spirit, come and be real to us in all we are and do, that we may be used to build the church, to extend our hands in compassionate service, to challenge our youth, to undergird our families, to be instruments of your peace. Amen!

by Stanley Earhart, *Living Waters, Worship Resources for Congregational Life*, No. 18. March 1994. Published by the Church of the Brethren General Board, June A. Gible, editor. Used by permission.

God of the hungry, Shelter of the homeless, we are in need of your mercy. We ask your blessing on children everywhere who are in danger today. Bless all who are hungry and homeless, all who suffer from injustice. Provide them with the food they need, shelter them in the warmth of your love, and safeguard them from the evil that rages around them. Turn our eyes and hearts to their needs. Give us courage to act for their good. We ask this, relying on your compassion and confident of your love known to us in Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

#10 *Banquet of Praise*, Bread for the World, 802 Rhode Island Avenue, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20018. Used by permission.

Hymns

Hymns

Presbyterian Hymnal

- ♩ 180 The God of Heaven
- ♩ 369 I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me
- ♩ 525 Here I Am, Lord
- ♩ 343 Called As Partners in Christ's Service
- ♩ 514 Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ
- ♩ 438 Blest Be the Tie that Binds
- ♩ 367 Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love

United Methodist Hymnal

- ♩ 593 Here I Am, Lord
- ♩ 557 Blest Be the Tie
- ♩ 358 Dear Lord and Father of Mankind
- ♩ 432 Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love
- ♩ 463 Lord, Speak to Me
- ♩ 393 Spirit of the Living God
- ♩ 356 Pues Si Vivimos (When We Are Living)



Poetry

Note: Rev. Larry Castillo-Wilson, a United Methodist minister, wrote this poem in 1987 after a tornado had devastated his town in Texas.

Triumph of Tenderness

*The soft subtle hands of God
bring forth creative good
from suffering's anguished womb.
Ask not the fruitless question of why,
Ask rather the fruitful question of how
Contractions of life can dilate the spirit.
Feel the motion of the Hands —
The grace, the skill, the love.
Move with the movement:
Infuse your feet, your hands, your eyes,
Your tongue, your heart, your mind
With softness and subtlety.
Bring to life:
Reassuring calm out of whirlwind emotion,
Resurrected meaning out of crucified hope,
Honest healing out of paralyzing pain,
Unsuspected courage out of raw despair.
Fear not the torment of pain:
In the hands is tenderness,
In the womb is perfection.
The soft, subtle hands of God
bring forth creative good
from suffering's anguished womb.
See the vision of the growth,
Hope the triumph of the love,
Help the creation of the good,
But above all
Live the dexterity of the hands.*

— Larry Castillo-Wilson - 1993
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I Saw My Church Last Week

*I've seen my church this week—not at 308 West Main Street but all over town.
 I saw my church making sandwiches for hungry, homeless people;
 I saw my church helping neighbors cut wood and clean yards;
 I saw my church digging rubble, rescuing the injured,
 standing guard to protect people
 and their possessions;
 I saw my church sorting and helping distribute mountains of clothing;
 I saw my church in hospital rooms of injured people;
 I saw my church caring for babies and young children
 while parents went through the process of seeking help and relief;
 I saw my church touching, clasping,
 hugging in yards where there had once been a home;
 I saw my church bagging food items and serving meals to weary, scared,
 bone-tired persons;
 I saw my church making telephone calls to companies and industries
 which could provide needed merchandise;
 I saw my church carrying on normal vocational duties—
 but with additional working hours
 and added duties—all done willingly and cheerfully;
 I saw my church laboring together with other churches—
 joined in the ministry of helping others.
 I saw my church praying last week—not “officially” at prayer meeting—
 but in closets and hallways and in family groups of two or three;
 I saw my church crying—sobbing for those who hurt and who feel the pain of loss;
 I saw my church saying “thank you” to God and to friends from near and far;
 I heard my church asking questions—“Why?” and “How much more?”—
 and yet knowing
 that God is big enough for all questions the heart can ask.
 I felt my church being “Koinonia”, a true fellowship of believers—not dependent on
 being in a certain building or wearing a badge proclaiming Thomas Memorial
 Baptist Church.
 (Substitute the name of your church.)
 I've called those I've seen this week my church, but God's church has been at work
 this week being the people we are called to be in the places where God can use us.
 Thank you, God, for the privilege of being a part of your church in this community—
 in this time.*

—Beverly G. Bass

Thomas Memorial Baptist Church
 Bennettsville, SC

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This poem can be read aloud by an individual or as a unison reading,
 or each line can be read by a different reader.

Video Response Guide

Write some notes here after viewing the video.

What I saw



What I felt



Questions I have