

## COMMUNITY (SMALL GROUP)

### LESSON 1: Community Mapping

Objective: For students to hit the streets and explore and discuss their own neighborhood/community



**TIME:** 1-3 hours (depending on how much you want them to do and whether or not they drive or walk).

**GAME (option 1):** If you have time, you can set up a photo scavenger hunt for your students to explore their neighborhood. Divide them into groups (small groups or pairs), create a list of 7-10 clues for locations/items to find in their neighborhood, and give them both a time limit and a location to finish (ie at your ministry site or an ice cream store where you treat them to ice cream at the end while you discuss the activity). Have each group take one cell phone picture at each destination. If they get stuck, they can text or call the leader for up to 2 clues. If you have multiple groups going at the same time, change the order of the clues for each group to ensure that they aren't just following each other around or cheating off the other group. Also, if you are hoping to have them engage with local business owners and people, make sure you meet them first and ask if they are comfortable participating.

#### Ideas could include:

Significant historical buildings (learn a brief history of each)

City Hall (where the decisions about your community are made/who is your mayor/city council?)

Police station (if comfortable try to meet and talk to an officer or pray for the officers to do justice)

An art mural or place with significant graffiti (what does this say about the community or the people in the community?)

A local small business (great if it is owned by a person of color). Try to meet the owner or learn a bit about them online or in person

A retirement home or home for special needs people

A fun place in town (i.e. bowling alley, YMCA, arcade, etc.)

A church (what do they know about that church? How is that church making a difference?)

NOTE: both the photo scavenger hunt and the community mapping are too much to do in one small group, unless you have a whole or half day to accomplish it all. Here is another easier option for your small group activity...

**GAME (option 2):** for this one the leader needs to spend time prepping by driving around the community and taking pictures of several different buildings and locations or people. Then create a slideshow (or pass around pictures) and have the students either shout out answers, raise their hand to answer first or fill in the answer on a paper. Make it fun and have a prize for the person or group who gets the most answers correct!

**ACTIVITY:** the goal is for the students to have an opportunity to walk the streets of their community and experience it's sights, smells, deficits and assets. Then discuss their findings and how they can see themselves making a difference in their community.

## **COMMUNITY MAPPING**

TIME: 1-3 hours

INSTRUCTIONS: Divide students up into groups of 2-3. Give each group either a part of town to walk through or allow them to decide for themselves where they will walk. Give very clear time parameters (i.e.. you must be back here at our site at 5:30pm). Then walk them through what they are looking for (if possible, have them take pictures of their discoveries)

SHARE: When everyone gathers back after the walk, have them gather and discuss the following questions:

How long have you lived in this community?

How was your experience walking around? Did you notice anything you've never seen before?

What were some of the negative things you saw or experienced in this community?  
Why do you think they are that way?

What were the positive things you saw or experienced in this community? How does this give you hope for your community?

How have you been involved in this community? If you haven't yet, in what ways would you like to get involved in it?

Where do you see God at work in the community? What do you think God's heart and purpose is for this community?

