



## OUR SCHOOLS MATTER

# SUNDAY SERVICE MESSAGE

### Luke 10:25-37 (ESV)

<sup>25</sup>And behold, a lawyer stood up to put him to the test, saying, “Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?” <sup>26</sup>He said to him, “What is written in the Law? How do you read it?” <sup>27</sup>And he answered, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself.” <sup>28</sup>And he said to him, “You have answered correctly; do this, and you will live.”

<sup>29</sup>But he, desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?” <sup>30</sup>Jesus replied, “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers, who stripped him and beat him and departed, leaving him half dead. <sup>31</sup>Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. <sup>32</sup>So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. <sup>33</sup>But a Samaritan,

as he journeyed, came to where he was, and when he saw him, he had compassion. <sup>34</sup>He went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine.

Then he set him on his own animal and brought him to an inn and took care of him. <sup>35</sup>And the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, ‘Take care of him, and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back.’ <sup>36</sup>Which of these three, do you think, proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?” <sup>37</sup>He said, “The one who showed him mercy.” And Jesus said to him, “You go, and do likewise.”

This well-known story is self-explanatory. It provides a perfect picture of what it means to practically demonstrate the love of Christ, which is the task of every local church and follower of Christ.

Today we want to talk specifically about what it looks like for us a church to love our neighbors.

## INTRODUCTION

The mission of the Church is to take the love of Jesus into all the world. As a local church, our community is our starting point in carrying out that mission. If we're going to effectively impact our community we must be committed to reaching our schools.

That's why we as a church are declaring today that Our Schools Matter. Said another way, we intend to share the love of Christ by showing it in tangible ways as we adopt our school(s) and demonstrate His love in practical ways.

## WHY DO OUR SCHOOLS MATTER?

### 1. Our Schools Matter Because Of The Need.

- A. Students are hurting.
- B. Leaders are facing pressures.
- C. Souls are on the line.

#### Bullying Stats:

- 28% of U.S. students in grades 6–12 experienced bullying.<sup>1</sup>
- 70.6% of young people say they have seen bullying in their schools.<sup>2</sup>
- We can make a difference: When bystanders intervene, bullying stops within 10 seconds 57% of the time.<sup>3</sup>

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### Teen Hunger Stats:

- More than 1 in 5 children is at risk of hunger. Among African-Americans and Latinos, it's 1 in 3.<sup>4</sup>
- Over 20 million children receive free or reduced-price lunch each school day. Less than half of them get breakfast, and only 10% have access to summer meal sites.<sup>5</sup>

When the night is the darkest the light is the brightest. This can be the finest hour of the Church and this can be our opportunity as a church in this community to show and share the love of Christ.

## 2. Our Schools Matter Because Of The Opportunity.

A. Schools are in need and we can help. Meeting physical needs provides opportunities to have spiritual conversations. In other countries we give them clean drinking water. What if we could provide backpacks with school supplies? This church is full of talented people who can use their gifts to provide an accurate picture of what Jesus looks like. Paint a cafeteria. Fix plumbing or electrical needs. Make over the teacher's lounge. Adopt and serve one of the teachers that attends our church. The list is as endless as our talents and abilities.

*(Show the Youth Alive - Our Schools Matter Video - Fabian's story)*

B. Largest gathering points of students. Regardless of race, beliefs, economic or any background, the largest collection of teenagers pass through the doors of our local schools every school day.

C. Not only students, teachers, faculty, but families of all. The local school

connects generations and entire families in our community like no other single entity in our area.

### 3. Our Schools Matter Because Of Our Responsibility.

#### A. Go. – Matthew 28:19

We're not waiting for people to break into our holy huddle. We're commissioned to go. As a church...

- We are sending out our students to reach other students.
- We release our youth pastor/youth leaders to be involved in the activity of our schools.
- We are stepping out to meet the needs of our schools.

#### B. Let your light shine. – Matthew 5:16

What does that mean practically? Here's how we do that. I could be...

- Praying for our schools and staff in an ongoing way.
- Providing a meal and serving a school staff meeting/in-service training/conference.
- Provide back-to-school supplies and back packs for students in need.
- Bring snacks occasionally to the teachers lounge.
- Offer church facility for the school's crisis response plan or potential school usage.
- Serve and assist the teachers in the classroom. We could begin with the teachers in our own church
- By talking with local school officials, find their needs, such as... (End this

list by sharing the need idea that you will present later as your church's response.)

C. By this will all men know. – John 13:35

They won't know we're Christians by the signs we're holding on the street corner, but by the way love and serve.

## SO, HERE'S OUR PLAN.

### 1. Pray for our schools.

Launch an ongoing, easy-to-remember prayer strategy for students, teachers and schools – Prayer Zone Partners (<http://youthalive.ag.org/pzp/>). Pray for students, teachers and their schools thru-out the school year. When you go through a school zone, make it a prayer zone. When you see a school bus, pray for Jesus to be known to this generation.

### 2. Build a bridge by serving.

- We've adopted (a school – share the school(s) name).
- I've met with (principal – share the principal's name).
- There's a need to help with (need – share the need your church has adopted).

### 3. Equip our students to commit to The Human Right. The greatest injustice is for someone to live and die without the opportunity to know Jesus.

We call ourselves, as a church collectively, to end THE Human Right by:

- Abide: Keeping Christ in our hearts and minds.

- **Abandon:** As God leads, letting go whatever we cling to and cling to Him.
- **Advocate:** Proclaim the Truth of Jesus through our words and actions.

Working with our District YA Missionary to equip students to reach other students and to help our church connect with our schools.

Our youth ministry will be going through their own Our Schools Matter series, focusing on students reaching students.

This Wednesday is SYATP...let's pray for God to move through this generation.

## CONCLUSION

Let's close our service by praying over our students.

(Distribute any information on how you are planning to adopt and serve your schools.)

### Stats Footnotes:

<sup>1</sup>National Center for Education Statistics and Bureau of Justice Statistics, School Crime Supplement, 2011.

<sup>2</sup>Bradshaw, C.P., Sawyer, A.L., & O'Brennan, L.M. (2007). Bullying and peer victimization at school: Perceptual differences between students and school staff. *School Psychology Review*, 36 (3), 361-382.

<sup>3</sup>Hawkins, D. L., Pepler, D., and Craig, W. M. (2001). Peer interventions in playground bullying. *Social Development*, 10, 512-527.

<sup>4</sup>Coleman-Jensen, Alisha, Nord, M., Andrews, M., Carlson, S. "Household Food Security in the United States in 2011." U.S. Department of Agriculture, Economic Research Service, 2012. Web Accessed July 22, 2014.

<sup>5</sup>U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service. "FY2010 Program Data." USDA, 2010. Web Accessed July 21, 2014.