

WORKSHOP: Thank You

PURPOSE: To gain an appreciation for all that is being done in the church and for others. To recognize all the ways in which people offer their services to the church and the community, while developing a deeper understanding of what the church is all about, and how the teen group is a part of that larger body, and wouldn't be here without the selfless service of all the congregants, staff, and volunteers.

PRINCIPLE: We step into the peaceful flow of life when we open our eyes and fill our hearts with gratitude for all the support and love around us, and find appreciation for what we have, not what we don't have.

MATERIALS: Pencils
Paper
Thank you cards

PROCEDURE: Break into groups of 5. Ask each group to develop a list of all the things they can think of that the church does or offers. Give examples like Joyful Noise, Non-Violent Communication, giving to another church in Santa Rosa when their buses were vandalized, giving roses to new people, going to the hospitals, etc..

After about 5 minutes, ask the groups to go downstairs and do two things:

- 1) look around in the church and discover more things for your list (observe the volunteers, read any bulletins or flyers, ask questions) and
- 2) write down one name of someone on the practitioner's board, the volunteer board, someone from the church who has had an impact on your spirituality, or someone you spoke with.

*****ONLY TAKE 10 MINUTES, AND COME RIGHT BACK******

Come back and sit with your group. Have each group share some of the things that are on the list and why it is important to them (up to 10 minutes).

Once everyone has shared, have each person fill out a thank you card addressed to the person that they wrote down. They do not have to know that person or what they do, a generic thank you like "Thank you for supporting this church. I really appreciate your part in making it available to me" is more than enough. Ask that each teen sign it with their name and "teen group" (7-10 minutes). Collect all the envelopes and distribute them to the correct people.

Close with the tithing basket, welcome bracelets, announcements, and appreciation circle.