

Youth activity 1: Vision maps



(Junior High and High School)

Objectives: Youth will explore, discuss and identify ways to respond to world disasters and crisis. Youth will identify places where they see the presence of God in the world and will envision how they can embody God's love. Youth will articulate their hopes for the world through vision maps.

Supplies: News articles, push pins, display board, scissors, glue or tape, and markers. Alternatively, the youth may choose to use digital media technology, if available.

Instructions: Begin by reading the theme scripture of Matthew 25:31-46.

Encourage youth to find two sets of articles/images from published sources (print or online). One set of articles should identify places in our society where there are "needs," "hurting and suffering," and/or evidence of the social challenges mentioned in the theme scripture. The second set of articles should identify ways "God is here," "We are here with others," and/or "God is present in those with whom we connect."

Invite youth to create a "You Are Here Vision Map" using the articles/images collected. These maps will show how the youth would like to see the world transformed. Push pins or strips of sticky notes may be used to label "locations" on the map. The youth may creatively design the map to illustrate their location as a youth group; the location of the church or society at-large. Encourage creative expression while designing the map. When possible, try to recycle unused scraps.

If using digital resources, consider creating the vision maps on Google Maps or by using the hashtag #YouAreHere on Instagram, Twitter, or Facebook. Ask the youth to tag @OGHS and their congregation and friends.

If possible, find a way for youth to share their vision maps with the congregation.

Processing: Ask: How do the articles that you selected speak to the theme scripture and the mission of One Great Hour of Sharing? What can be done as a faith community to affirm and/or reposition our ministries to respond to suffering, hurting and hardships in our society and world? How can One Great Hour of Sharing be an action step for our church and community? How can we be visionaries and share in creating roadmaps for God's love, justice, and peace? Where can OGHS be placed on the vision map?