



# Youth Group Resources and Ideas for **HUMAN RELATIONS DAY**

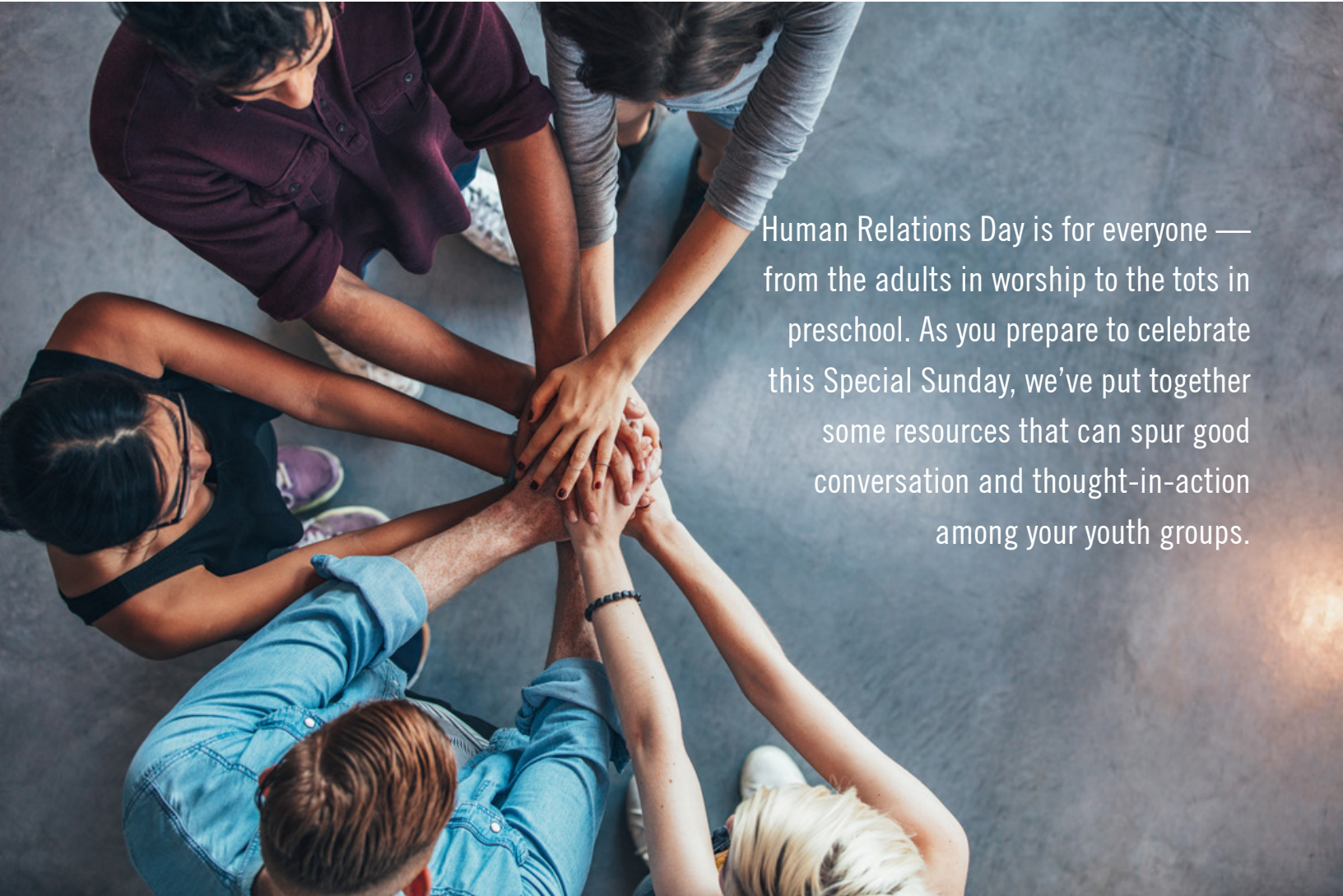


Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.

**The people of The United Methodist Church®**



# Youth Group Resources And Ideas for **HUMAN RELATIONS DAY**

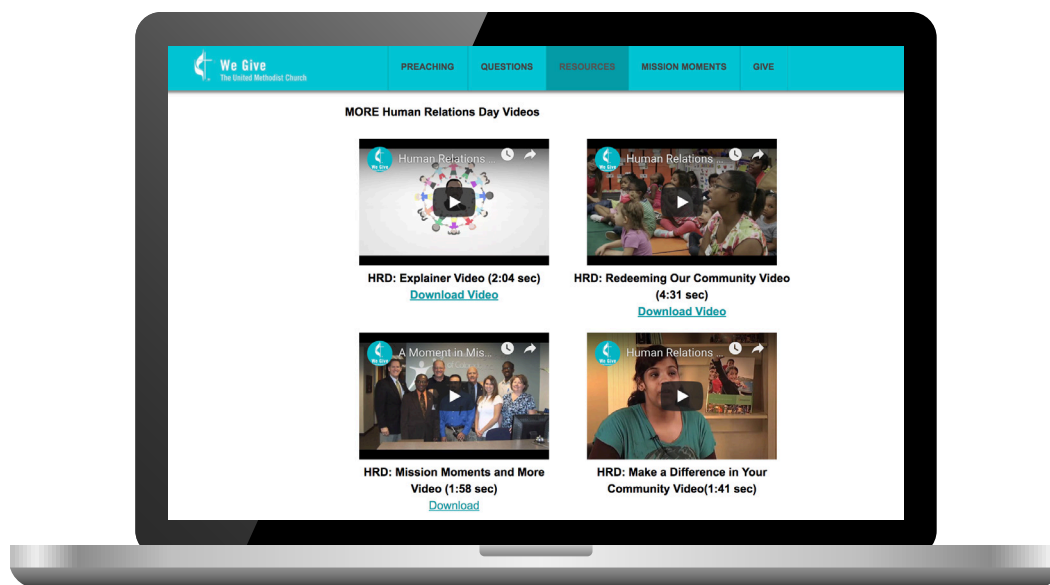


Human Relations Day is for everyone — from the adults in worship to the tots in preschool. As you prepare to celebrate this Special Sunday, we've put together some resources that can spur good conversation and thought-in-action among your youth groups.

# Use Videos During Announcements

Start talking about Human Relations Day a few weeks before the date of celebration. We want to pique curiosities and let our youth groups know that something special is coming.

We've put together some videos that you can use for your youth group. Play these videos during the announcements or in the background as they walk in. These are short, 15-20-second videos that talk about some of the reasons we celebrate Human Relations Day.





### **Did You Know (Video 03)**

This video talks about how a portion of all giving on Human Relations Day is allocated to Youth Offender Rehabilitation programs and incarcerated youth. Spend a little time after the video plays to talk about why it's important to give and help our neighbors.



### **Did You Know (Video 06)**

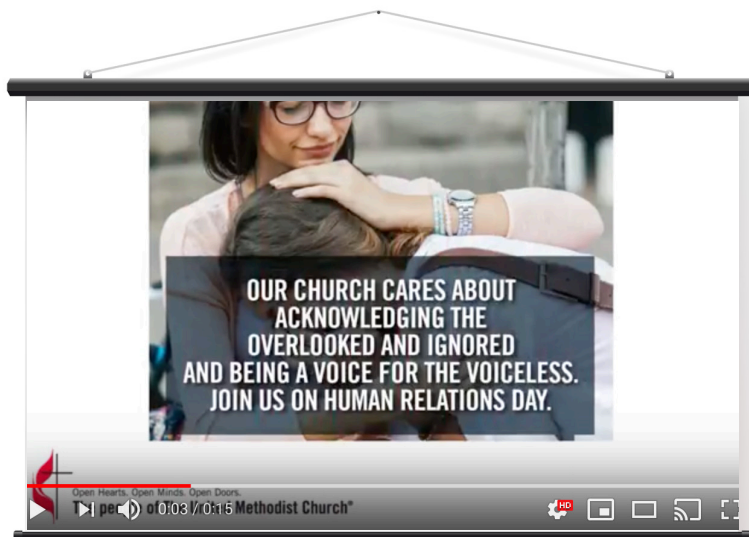
This video talks about how we give on Human Relations Day because we want all God's children to reach their potential. After the video, ask the kids what they think potential is, and why it's important.





## Our Church Cares Video #1

This video talks about how your church celebrates Human Relations Day because they care about at-risk youth. Ask the kids what they think “at-risk” means. Then, spend a little bit of time talking about why we believe it’s important that we help the “at-risk” youth.



## Our Church Cares Video #2

This video says that we care about being a “voice for the voiceless.” Spend some time asking the kids what they think that means. Then, come up with a few examples of what that looks like at school (or in competitive sports, etc).

# Human Relations Day Service

*A suggested order of service for your youth groups*

We've put together an order of service for your youth groups on Human Relations Day. These resources and suggestions have been curated to help you plan the best-possible service and help open the hearts of young givers.






## Walk in

As the youth walk in, have [this quote card](#) showing on the TVs or video screens. If you don't use TVs or video screens for youth, make sure this quote is printed on the bulletin for them that week.

As a bonus, print several of this quote card, cut them to size and laminate them. Pass them out to everyone after the sermon so they can hang it in their locker or place it on a mirror.



God, give me Your understanding of those who are in need so I can show them Your love.

Proverbs 29:7



Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.  
The people of The United Methodist Church®

[www.umcgiving.org/HRD](http://www.umcgiving.org/HRD)

## Opening Song

For your opening song, set the tone by sharing this one from Needtobreathe. It's called "Difference Maker", and talks about how God makes a difference for others **through** us.



If you use TVs or video screens in your youth service, play this video on the screen. You can find the video [here](#).

If you don't use video, have your youth worship leader sing it live. The chord sheets and lyrics are available on [here](#).



## Welcome & Announcements

After the opening song, make sure you let people know that today is a Special Sunday. It's a day we've set aside, as United Methodists, to talk about how we can make a difference for people in our community. If you've been showing the videos we suggested in the weeks prior, make sure you pepper in some of your previous conversations about potential and helping "at-risk" youth.

After your announcements, share the explainer video on Human Relations Day. You can find it [here](#).

After the video, ask the kids to tell you what they think Human Relations Day is. Correct or help them along as they answer.



## Game & Icebreaker - “The Privilege Walk”

After the announcements, it's time to break that ice! This game is meant to show how different people have different “privileges.” We want to spend a little time helping our young members reflect on the different areas in their life where they might have privilege as well as areas they might not.



# Game & Ice Breaker - “The Privilege Walk”

## How to Play

- Have everyone stand up and line up next to each other, shoulder-to-shoulder.
- You’ll read these statements, and kids will step forward or backward based on their responses (Before the service, make sure you’ve asked a few youth leaders to play the part of the underprivileged).
  - If your family has a home or lives in someone else’s home, take five steps forward.
  - If you have ever been embarrassed by your clothes, house, or family car, take one step back.
  - If you attend a private school or summer camp, take two steps forward.
  - If your parents tell you that you are beautiful or handsome and capable, take one step forward.
  - If English is not your first language, take one step back.
  - If your parents did not grow up in the United States, take one step back.

*(These questions are only suggestions. Feel free to change them so that they fit your youth group. You want to “stack” the questions so that the kids can move forward, and the youth leaders can stay in back)*

- Now that you’ve asked a few questions, there will be a lot of kids at the front, a few in the middle, and your “underprivileged” youth leaders in the back. Have, the kids at the front and the middle turn to look at the volunteers in the back.
- Share with them how, on Human Relations Day, we give is so that everyone can have access to the things they need in order to live up to their potential. On Human Relations Day, we get to make a difference!

## Worship Songs

It's time for worship! Here are our song suggestions for Human Relations Day. If these songs don't fit your youth group style, check out this link to search for songs by [theme](#).

- “Open the Eyes of My Heart, Lord” (MercyMe)
- “Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing” (Chris Tomlin)
- “This Is the Air I Breathe” (Michael W. Smith / Hillsong)





# Prayer

Before your sermon, speak an intentional prayer. Below is adapted for youth from the suggested UMC Discipleship Ministries Prayer on Human Relations Day.

*Lord, please speak to us today.*

*We are listening*

*For a word of encouragement or*

*For you to tell us how to live our lives better.*

*We are listening, rich and poor,*

*We are listening, privileged and underprivileged.*

*We want to hear from you.*

*We come to you today, Lord, wanting to learn something that will change our lives.*

*We want our neighbors to be fed and to have jobs and to be able to buy everything they need.*

*We want everyone we know to know you and live up to their potential.*

*Please show us today how we can help. And please show us how to be brave and have the courage to be a voice for the voiceless.*

*We are listening.*

*Amen.*

# Sermon



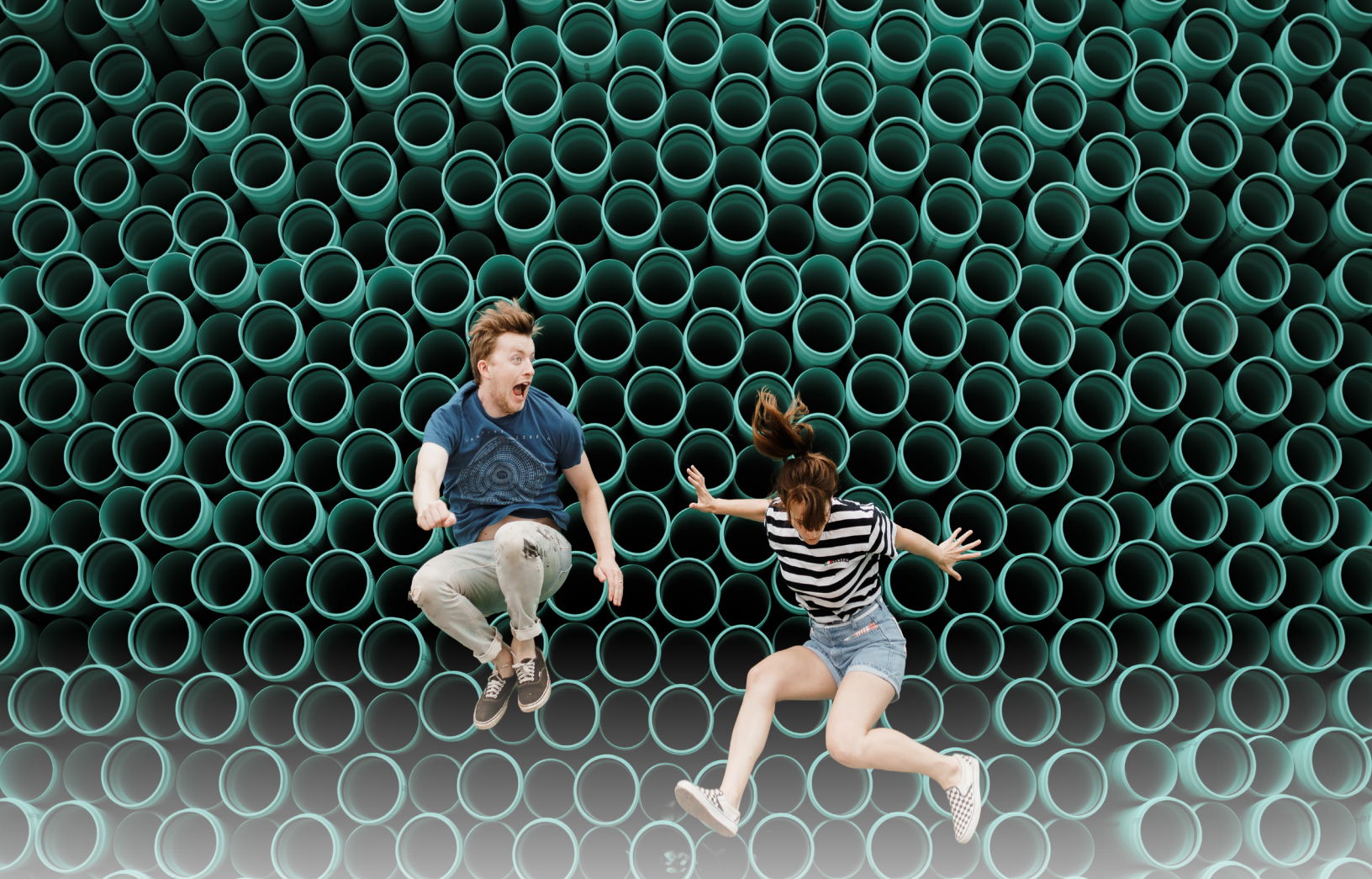


## **Interactive Activity**

Before your sermon, start with an interactive activity. This activity is meant to evoke empathy for people who might be “living in the margins,” meaning they don’t always have enough resources to thrive and live up to their potential.

This activity can be anything that reflects your youth group well.

We have included one here for you as an example.



## Choose Your Own Adventure

You will read scenarios to the class that are typical day-in-the-life activities for a family in need. You want the class to tell you what this family should do when faced with a typical decision (i.e. buy a bus pass or go to school first, etc.) Once they choose, you will read what happens next.

Remember, this activity is meant to evoke empathy! We want your young members to feel the frustration of this young family, so we've created some difficult circumstances to overcome.



# Props Needed

- Four poster boards that say:
  - School. Monday through Friday, 8am-3pm
  - Social Worker. Hours: Monday through Friday, 9am - 5pm
  - Day Care: Hours Monday through Friday, 6am - 7pm
  - Mom & Pop's Grocery Store. Hours: Tuesday through Saturday, 10am - 7pm
- Baby doll



# Volunteers Needed

- One volunteer to stand by each poster board.
  - Storekeeper
  - Social worker
  - Banker
  - Grocery clerk
  - Day care
- Three other volunteers (Two girls and a boy)
  - They will be a family.
  - Hand them the baby doll





## “Adventure” Setup

*Adapt to your age group*

Today, we are going to make choices for a family. We are going to walk them through two days in a typical week.

Let’s find out about our family.

This is Johnny (point to the volunteer). He’s 19 years old and he goes to college. He has a scholarship, but if he misses too many classes, he will lose his scholarship.

These two girls are Jane and Jill. (point to the volunteers) They’re twins and they are 13 years old. They take the bus to and from school every day.

This is Jack (hold up the baby doll, and then hand to Johnny). Jack goes to day care every day while his older siblings go to school.

Johnny takes care of everyone because their mother left them a few years ago and their dad is in jail.

This week, Johnny needs to buy groceries and pay a few bills. He has \$100 and five bus passes to help him do that.

I’m going to give you a situation, and you are going to tell me what this family should do, OK?

# Scenario for Day One

*You will read this out loud to the group.*

It's 10am in the morning.

The twins are at school (have the girls walk over to the school posterboard). The bus dropped them off and picked them up. They have all the food they need because they will get lunch at school.

Johnny has taken the bus and dropped off baby brother Jack at day care. (Have Johnny move the baby to the day care area).

Today, Johnny needs to go to school, buy food from the grocery store, and buy five bus passes from the grocery store or social worker. He is also hoping the social worker can help him get coupons for food.

## **Ask: What should Johnny do first?**

*The kids will be calling out things like “go buy a bus pass from the social worker,” or “go to college.”*

After they've all agreed (or mostly agreed on what he should do first,) have Johnny move to the posterboard, then read what happens to Johnny from below.

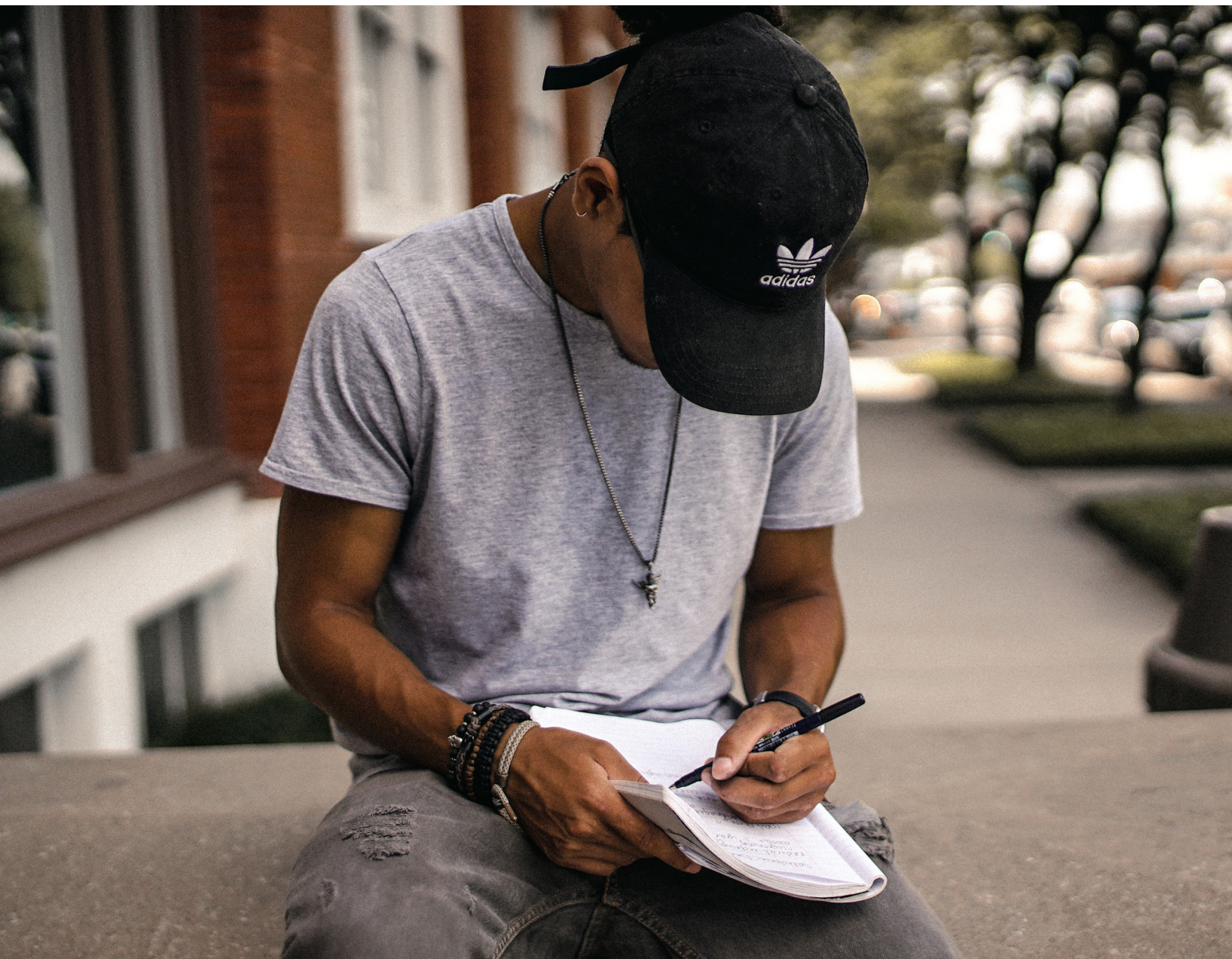
- **Social Worker:** Oh no! After waiting all day at the social worker's office. Johnny found out that you have to be 21 in order to buy a bus pass from the social worker. He was able to get some food coupons, but because it took so long, he missed a full day of classes. If he misses too much school, he will lose his scholarship.
- **Grocery Store:** Oh no! The food is so expensive, they were only able to buy one bus pass for Johnny, but he needs five. Now he won't be able to get to school every day. If he misses too much school, he will lose his scholarship.
- **College:** At school, Johnny finds out he needs to buy a really expensive textbook and some extra school supplies. If he buys his school book and school supplies, he won't have enough for food and groceries.



# Scenario One Reflection

*You will read this out loud to the group.*

- How do you think Johnny feels after today?
- Who do you think Johnny could call for help?
- Who here would feel really frustrated if they were Johnny? Johnny tried to do everything he could do be a great big brother, and he wasn't able to be successful.



## Scenario for Day Two

*Have all the volunteers move next to you so that they can go to the posterboard as they hear you mention it. Just like day one, read this description. Have the volunteers move to the posterboard as the class chooses their “adventure”.*

It’s 3pm in the afternoon.

The twins are just done with school and want to be involved with a really cool after-school activity with the volleyball team.

Johnny has just finished up his college classes. He needs to go to the grocery store, pick up baby Jack from day care, and make dinner for everyone.

Everyone needs to eat dinner at 6pm.

### **Should the twins take the bus home? Or should they stay for an after-school activity with the volleyball team?**

- **Stay for after-school activity:** Jane and Jill find out that they can’t stay because there is no bus transportation to afterward, and they aren’t old enough to take the public bus station like Johnny.
- **Go home:** Awesome! Phew! No bad news... except for the math homework they have to do now.

### **Now, what should Johnny do? Should he go get Jack from day care or go grocery shopping first?**

- **Grocery store:** Ugh. Once Johnny arrives, he finds it is closed because the family that runs the store had a family emergency. Now Johnny is worried they all won’t have enough to eat this week.
- **Day care:** Oh, man. The bus broke down on the way to pick up baby Jack from day care. It took so long that now, after picking up baby Jack, the grocery store was closed by the time he got there.

# Scenario Two Reflection

*Before beginning this reflection, dismiss the volunteers and have everyone take their seats.*

- How do you think Johnny feels after today?
- How do you think the twins felt after they found out they couldn't participate in the after-school activities?
- Who do you think would help this family? Is there anyone you can think of, like a company or organization, that would help them?



# Sermon Script

There are people in this world who have less opportunity than we do. Sometimes it's because they made mistakes and got themselves in trouble. And sometimes it's not because of anything they did — like Johnny and his siblings.

As Christians, we believe that it is our calling to help people when they need it. And we believe that God sends people to help us when we need it.

Jesus loves all of us, not just those who look like they've got their “act together.”

He loves people like Johnny, Jane, Jill, and Jack.

He loves people who have homes and who don't have homes.

He loves people when they mess up a little bit or mess up a lot.

**He just loves us.**

I've told you that today is very special because it's Human Relations Day. We set aside this day every year because we want to remember that God wants us to help each other. God wants us to serve each other. God wants us to love each other, just like God loves us. And God believes in us! God created us — all of us — to do great things!

Jesus says in Matthew . . .

*And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.'*

*Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' Matthew 25:40-43 (NRSV)*

I know that as young people you may think, “What can I do? I am not old enough to help or I don't have any money to give, or I don't know how I could possibly make an impact.” But did you know that young people can actually inspire older people to be better? Age doesn't matter!

In 1 Timothy 4:12 (NRSV) it says “Let no one despise your youth, but set the believers an example in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, in purity.”

You, as a youth, can make a difference.

You, as a youth, can lead our church to be more aware of those who are in need!

You, as a youth, can keep those people at the forefront of our minds!

One of the things that is happening today over in worship is a special offering. Today, our pastor is asking your parents, grandparents, aunts, and uncles to give a special offering to help people like Johnny and his family... to help people who don't have homes or people who don't have food.

Their Human Relations Day offering is going to food banks, homeless shelters, youth rehabilitation centers, and day care centers... places that help people who need it. Our generosity during offering means that more people are helped.

When we have what we need, **we can thrive!** When we have what we need, we can reach our potential.

Who here thinks that is a good idea?

My challenge to you this week is to ask yourself: What is it that God wants you to see differently today?

What ideas is he placing on your heart to take action? Is God calling you to give your money or time?

We are about to take an offering for Human Relations Day. We want to be a part of helping people like Johnny.

While the offering song is playing, I want to challenge you to think about what you can do with your family to help others in need. Or how you can raise money to help kids like you who need an extra hand.

I believe in you — I think that, together, we can spark real change.

Let's pray.

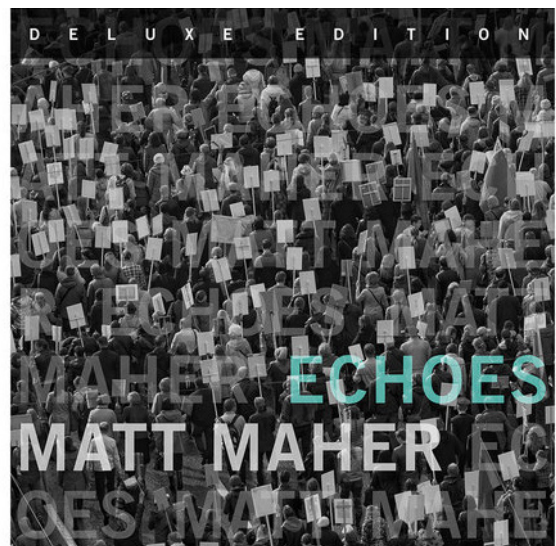
*God, thank you so much for loving us, and for providing what we need when we need it. Please show me how I can help others. Please bless the offering we are about to take and use it to help the people who need it most. In your name, Amen.*

# Offertory

As the offering is being taken, have your worship band play *Kings & Queens* by Audio Adrenaline or *The Least of These* by Matt Maher. If you don't have a worship band, just play the song for the class using a boombox or your speaker system.

If you use TVs or Video Screens in your youth service, play this video on the screen. You can find the video [here](#).

If you don't use video, have your youth worship leader sing it live. The chord sheets and lyrics are available [here](#).







## Challenge / Closing Prayer

This week, I want you to pray and ask God to show you someone you can help or serve this week.

And, next week, I want you to tell me all about it.

End your service with prayer.

We are committed to making sure pastors and teams have everything they need for Special Sundays. We've created a variety of resources for this Special Sunday as well as the other five churchwide Special Sundays with offerings.

For more resources like this, visit [www.umcgiving.org](http://www.umcgiving.org).



Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.

**The people of The United Methodist Church®**