

# **Breathe**

**Module: CULTIVATING INTIMACY IN COMMUNITY**

**Lesson 2: SERVING BY SEEING**

## **Objectives:**

- Students will become better at identifying the needs of others.
- Students will begin working on meeting the needs of others in one of their various communities (home, school, and neighbourhood).

## **Materials Needed**

- ☐ A journal for each member of the group
- ☐ Pens
- ☐ White/chalk board or chart paper
- ☐ Optional: “Minds On” questions posted on a large paper

## Minds On

**Think/Pair/Share:** Have each person share with their partner their most recent experience at restaurant. Some specific questions for them to discuss are:

What was the name of your server? Were they good?

Did you enjoy their service? Why or why not?

What specifically made their service strong or weak?

After 3 min., have 3-4 students share their partner's answers.

## Action

**Prompt:** Today we will be talking about serving others, and the first step in serving others is identifying a need. If you were a grade 12 student that wanted to serve a grade 9 student you could do so by offering to tutor them for math. However if that student is particularly strong in math or is not even taking math that semester your offer, although well intentioned, is not actually helpful. Sometimes when we as Christians attempt to help others we do not always do a good job of identifying what would truly be helpful

Hand out Journals.

Communicate the following instructions (this works well if they can be written on a white board, chalk board, etc. so that students can refer to it throughout the exercise without having to interrupt the entire group to do so):

For the next 5 min., read and answer the following questions in your journal.

Think carefully about each response remembering the goal of this exercise is to practice identifying the needs of others, not to simply create a personal wish list.

1. Write a list of 2 things that you know right now needs to get done at your house (e.g. washing the dishes).
2. Write down 2 things that could get done at your school that would bless your school community (e.g. having more supervision in the cafeteria).

3. Write down 2 things that could start happening in your neighbourhood that would make it a safer and/or more enjoyable place for people that live there.

Read together Acts 6:1-7. Alternately, have someone tell the story to the group (story-telling can be a very powerful medium for youth and this story lends itself well to story-telling).

**Leader's Note:** Another option would be to have youth read and act out this passage (it can utilize at least 21 people in 1 skit). It is short but has a lot happening and could easily be made quite funny. It would also be a break from sitting and reading/writing/listening for the more active members or your group.

**Ask:**

What was the need the early church leaders were trying to figure out how to meet?  
(...distributing food fairly, regardless of race.)

How did they go about meeting this need? (...to place a small group of people in charge of serving and distributing food fairly.)

How did the people involved respond? (...it pleased everyone (verse 5))

How did the leaders help to ensure that the need was met well? (...it may not be noticeable right away but the names of the men put in charge are Greek names.)

**Prompt** (if applicable): The church leaders saw that the need was more than just getting food to people but the true need was having the food distributed fairly to everyone. By placing people that represented the party feeling discriminated against in charge of food distribution the leaders ensured that the Greeks would feel heard and confident their needs would be met. Furthermore, by having the Apostles place hands on the 7 it was clearly communicated to everyone that this decision was fully supported by the leaders and not a situation in which the Greeks were self-appointing themselves as an act of reaction or aggression. Thus, everyone was pleased.

**Prompt:** This story illustrates well the importance of fully and clearly identifying a need before trying to respond. Now let's return to the lists we made earlier.

## **Consolidate/Debrief**

Have the group open their journals again to their previous responses. **Ask:**

Look at your answer to question one. Are these jobs that you usually do or jobs that someone else in your home typically does? If one of them is a job that you typically do replace it with a job that usually belongs to someone else. For question two and three, are your answers things that will benefit a large number of people or are they changes that you would enjoy seeing for personal interest sake? If one of your answers is primarily about your interests change it.

**Breathe in:** Invite students to look at their list and ask God to direct them towards one of the needs identified in at home, school, or in the community.

**Breathe out:** Have students choose one thing from their list and commit to begin working toward meeting that need. The solution might be simple: go home and do the dishes so that whoever usually has to get a break. The solution might be complicated and take a lot of time and energy to accomplish. If it is a need at school or in their neighbourhood, encourage them to invite others to help think of good responses and join in the task.

**Leader's Note:** If your youth group is localized, from the same neighbourhood or divided among only 2 or 3 schools, it might work well to divide into neighbourhood or school groups and have people share the needs they have identified for the school or neighbourhood and then pray together and choose one need to begin working on as a group.