

Compassionate ministry Ideas for the Local Church

Discussion Questions

After reading through the compassionate ministry ideas below, reflect on the following questions:

- What compassionate ministries is your local church engaging in now?
- What compassionate ministries could your church participate in the future? What are the barriers standing in the way of being faithful in how God is calling your church to serve?
- Does your church provide an inventory to help people discern how God may be calling them to serve? If so, discuss how this is beneficial.
- Does your church provide a form where people can express interest to serve within specific ministries of the church? If so, discuss how this is beneficial.
- **What does my community need?

Ministries for Children and Teens:

- Child sponsorship through NCM.
- Buddy benches made (with permission) for schools to promote kindness. Church kids can have previous buy in and promote using them in schools.
- Foster care support: feed DHS workers, collect necessities that can be stored until needed (kids can pack bags), and prayer.
- Children with special needs: make sure that those with special needs have a place in your church to worship. Holiday parties thrown for children with special needs. Give gifts. Laugh. Sing and dance with them.
- Walk with teenagers who are pregnant. Baby shower. Remind them of God's goodness and love.
- Support Christmas programs for those who are in need (kids using their own money to buy gifts for other kids).
- Coats collected for schools to be given to kids who are without.
- Student Mentoring Programs in partnership with schools.

Recovery Ministries:

- Support Rest Stop Ministries based in Tn.
- Come alongside of organizations doing recovery work in your community. Pray for them, discern needs, and offer support.

Feeding Ministries:

- Local food pantry: collect, stock, greet, deliver, pray for those in need at pantry.

- Backpack feeding ministry: collect food/purchase, double bag the bags (great project for kids), pack the bags, pray over bags, and deliver the bags.
- Meals on wheels: offer to collect, cook, deliver, and pray for elderly in need.

Homeless Ministries:

- Blessing bags for those who are homeless (great project for kids).
- Make blankets for those who are homeless.
- Serve at homeless shelters.

Ministries for the Elderly:

- Serve at the local retirement center in whatever ways needed.
- Nursing home: visit, pray, serve communion. Kids can sing, read, play games, and engage in crafts with elderly.
- Adults with special needs: make sure that those with special needs have a place in your church to worship. Holiday parties thrown for adults in group homes. Give gifts. Laugh. Sing and dance with them.
- Mow yards for elderly.
- Home/vehicle repair for single parents.

Ministries for those who are in financial need/lower socioeconomic class:

- Tutoring for adults who are going through GED program. Teach reading to adults who are illiterate.
- Classes to teach those in community how to budget their money, interview for jobs, and how to eat healthy.
- Home/vehicle repair for those who are in financial need.
- Pay deposits needed to move.
- Money given to those at laundromat.

Single Parent/Parent Ministries:

- After school care.
- Mother's Day/Parent's Day Out program especially for single parents.
- "Grandparents" being involved in kids' lives.
- Provide social/emotional training for parents.
- Home/vehicle repair for single parents.
- Pay deposits needed to move.
- Pay outstanding hospital debt.
- Money given to those at laundromat.

Natural Disasters:

- Cook meals for those who have been involved in natural disasters.
- Collect needed items and/or work to rebuild communities.

Ministries to help those with health struggles:

- Take individuals to doctor's appointments.
- Make blankets for those with cancer diagnosis.
- Collect offering to help with cost of hospital bills.

Partnerships:

- United Way
- Local school system
- Department of Human/Health Services
- Adult Education programs
- Local Group Home organizations
- Local nursing homes
- Local recovery ministries
- Clean water organizations around world
- Local hospitals
- Local homeless shelters