

Helping Homeless Teens

By Jolene Roehlkepartain



The number of homeless teenagers from all socioeconomic groups continues to grow, and homeless teens now attend most schools. This activity invites you to learn more about homelessness among teens and to reach out to homeless teens.

For

Teen Family

Season

Spring

Needed

Bible, phone book or community directory



by [kevin dooley](#)

Prepare in Advance

- Download information about homeless teens from: [Homeless and Runaway Youth](#).
- Mark your Bible at Matthew 25:31-40.
- Search in a local phone book or community directory for organizations that serve homeless teens. (Your church office or local social service office may be able to help you identify these organizations.)

Activity Plan

1. Say this prayer aloud to begin.

God, open our eyes to teens who are homeless. Open our ears to listen to what we can do. Open our hearts to reach out and serve them in Jesus' name. Amen.

2. Begin a discussion of teens who are homeless by asking:
 - Have you ever known or seen a homeless teenager? If so, where and when?
 - How old are most of the homeless people that you have seen?
 - What have you done in the past to help those who are homeless?
3. Together, read the information about homeless teens at [Homeless and Runaway Youth](#). Read the introductory paragraphs and the following sections: "Studies Have Shown That," "Common Reasons Why Youth Become Homeless or Runaways," and "Consequences of Life on the Street for Homeless and Runaway Youth." Talk about this information: What is something new you learned from this article? What surprised you?
4. Talk about local organizations that serve people who are homeless, especially teens.
5. Ask someone to read aloud Matthew 25:31-40 from your Bible or the text at the end of this activity. Discuss the story:
 - On what basis will the nations be judged by the Son of Man?
 - What surprised the "sheep" about the way they served the King?
 - In what ways might we serve Christ by serving homeless teens? (List as many ideas as you can.)
6. Choose one idea to carry out as a family. For example, volunteer to help at a food shelf or homeless shelter; collect money for one month to give to an organization to help homeless teens; work to get to know teammates and classmates better. (For example, one suburban high school soccer team discovered that one of their players was homeless. No one knew this because players had never asked each other about where they lived. Once they learned that one player was homeless, parents and players worked together to help him and his family.)



Matthew 25:31-40

³¹ [Jesus said,] “When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. ³² Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. ³³ And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left. ³⁴ Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. ³⁵ For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶ I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.’ ³⁷ Then the righteous will answer him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? ³⁸ And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? ³⁹ And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?’ ⁴⁰ And the King will answer them, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.’

