

Introduction Meeting

Supplies for Session

- Supplies for team building activities you choose to do
- Technology to show videos (laptop, projector or TV)
- Agape intro video on YouTube, two options:
 - [Summer promo](#)
 - [Agape Is ...](#)
- [Agape - Love](#) YouTube video

Note on Timing

- If your session is 45 minutes, you may need to shorten discussions or pick a short icebreaker. Or if you want to prioritize the icebreakers/teaming building, save the introduction to the word 'agape' for another meeting/session.

Opening Prayer & Welcome (4 min)

- Peace Prayer of St. Francis
Lord, make me an instrument of your peace:
where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
where there is sadness, joy.

O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek
to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to understand,
to be loved as to love.
For it is in giving that we receive,
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.
Amen.

Introduction of Mission Team Members (7 min)

- Each participants shares something like: Name, Grade, School, Favorite Hobby

Ideas for Team Building Activities (10-20 min depending on game(s))

Food Names

For: Learning all the names in the group

Supplies: Nothing

Instructions: Each person needs to think of a food they like that starts with the same letter as their first name (Apple Anne, Burrito Bob). As you go around the room, everyone repeats the food and name after each person introduces himself or herself. Can go around the group again to repeat the foods & names to help with memory.

Back-to-Back Drawing

For: Communication Skills

Supplies: Paper, pens/markers, printouts of simple line drawings (a worm in an apple, a tree, a flower, a dinosaur, a butterfly, etc.)

Instructions: Split your group into pairs and have each pair sit back to back. One person gets a picture of a shape or simple image, and the other gets a piece of paper and pen. The person holding the picture gives verbal instructions to their partner on how to draw the shape or image they've been given (without telling them what the shape or image is). After a set amount of time (7-10 minutes), have each set of partners compare their images and see which team drew the most accurate replica.

Spider Web

For: Creative Problem Solving & Collaboration Exercise

Supplies: String and tape

Instructions: Tape two pieces of string across a doorway, one at about three-and-a-half feet and the other around five feet. This string is the poisonous spider web. Teams must get all their members through the opening between the strings without touching it. Increase the difficulty by taping more pieces of string across the doorway.

Paper Plane Contest

For: Collaboration Exercise

Supplies: A long hallway, tape to mark launch line, measuring stick, card stock

Instructions: This game can be played either indoor or outdoor. Each team gets a piece of card stock to construct a paper plane. Let them work together to construct a plane they think will fly the farthest. Add to the fun by decorating the planes before launch. The team whose plane flies farthest wins all the glory!

Introduction to Agape Service Project (15 min)

- Show one or both short Agape promotion video
 - [Summer promo](#)
 - [Agape Is ...](#)
- Share a brief overview of the mission and week of service (if you have returners, this is a great time for them to share to include student voice). Some things you could share:
 - The mission of the Agape Service Project is to foster service, community and prayer as participants encounter Christ and uphold the dignity of our farmworker brothers and sisters.

- Week of service. Projects include: giving our time and joy to the children who live at a farmworker housing complex, working on a farm in solidarity with farmworkers, setting up and running a food bank for the farmworker community, and living a week of simplicity in order to better understand the life of our brothers and sisters
- Week of community. Growing community within our group; with the partner group for the week (if you have one); and really striving to build community with those we serve so that it isn't us serving them, but a community that is striving for all to have a better life. Also a week of living IN community – shared sleeping spaces, shared meals, shared chores, etc. – serving each other in our group.
- Week of prayer. Rooting all we do in our relationship with Christ, because as we serve our neighbor we serve God. Daily reflections, social justice formation, daily prayer, Mass and Adoration during the week
- A week of giving, growing, having fun, and meeting Christ
- Then ask each mission team member to share:
 - If you are a returner: why are you excited to serve with Agape again? Or What is your favorite aspect of the week of service?
 - If this is your first time with Agape: Why did you sign up for this week of service? Or What are you looking forward to?

Intro to The Word 'Agape' (10-15)

- Dive into the definition and the call to action of the word agape
- Ask: *Does anyone know what the word 'agape' means?*
 - *What might 'agape' look like?*
- Watch The Bible Project's video on the word Agape
 - Prep the students: *While you watch, write down or remember some of the descriptions the video gives to aid in our discussion on agape.*
 - Video: [Word Study: Agape - "Love"](#) (From The Bible Project)
 - Key statements you could highlight:
 - His early followers didn't learn the definition of agape by looking it up, they learned it by following Jesus' teachings and actions
 - Loving God and loving your neighbor are the two sides of the same coin
 - For Jesus, love is action. It is a choice you make to seek the well-being of people other than yourself.
 - Seeking other people's well-being without expecting anything in return, especially people who are in difficult situations
 - Agape reflects the heartbeat of God
 - Christ showed love for the forgotten ones, the people who usually fall through the cracks of society, those society has deemed as invisible
 - Ultimate standard of love is how well you treat the person you can't stand, loving your enemy, enemy-embracing love

- The purpose of human existence is to receive the love from our God and then to give it back out to others; made from love to be loved and to give love
- Discussion on video:
 - What did you hear that resonated with you?
 - What does it mean that loving God and loving your neighbor are the two sides of the same coin?
 - What is an example of a time that someone has sought your well-being without expecting anything in return? What was that like?
 - Who are the forgotten ones, the people who have been made invisible in our local community, schools, society, and/or nation? How can we begin to make sure they are seen, known, and loved?
- Wrap up with commentary/reflection on how this is our goal for not only our week of service but also the preparation for the trip, and in a much larger sense, our life.

Closing Prayer (3 min)

1 John 4: 7-12

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is of God; everyone who loves is begotten by God and knows God.

Whoever is without love does not know God, for God is love.

In this way the love of God was revealed to us: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might have life through him.

In this is love: not that we have loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as expiation for our sins.

Beloved, if God so loved us, we also must love one another.

No one has ever seen God. Yet, if we love one another, God remains in us, and his love is brought to perfection in us.