Moving from a "me" to "we" mentality can be a hard transition for all of us, especially students. We live in a me-centered world. But Jesus desired for us to love others. That truth is repeated in Scripture. But it seems, more often than not, we miss it. It seems that we, as the church, can become so preoccupied with the "me" that we neglect the "we."

THE XP:WE
LOVE IS A MOVEMENT

This XP is about seeking to be active, caring, selfless followers of Jesus who look to meet the needs of those strategically placed within our own community of faith. We might not have to look any further than the students within our group or the families in our building to see people desperate to encounter a living Savior through us.

This XP will be driven by each small group. It will work best to brainstorm ideas during small group time of Session One or Two, and then plan the experience for after Session Three. Encourage each small group to identify a family or an individual within your church who is need of care. They can combine with other groups if they would like to work with more people to meet a financial need that may be bigger than one group can handle. Allow each group to really brainstorm about not just WHO they could show God's love to, but HOW to meet that need. Get creative! The point is to come together as a community to display God's love. Challenge them to think farther than just the immediate need as well. How could they be a community to this individual/family next week, next month, even three months from now?

Here are some ideas to get the brainstorming started:

- Find an older person who is truly just lonely, and would love to sit and visit with people to break up the monotony of his or her day. The small group could carve time out of their week to stop by in order to demonstrate God's love.

- Find someone who has a financial need—maybe a family who doesn't have money for groceries, can't afford for their child to go to camp or fill up their car with gas. The small group could pull some resources to provide for this monetary or physical need.

Chances are there are dozens of people/families in your church who in some way or another are desperate to encounter God's love from a community of believers in some form or fashion. And chances are many of these families are too afraid to communicate their need. They are too ashamed, too embarrassed or too uncertain of how people may react, so they stay silent instead. But what if that all started to change because your students started to embrace Jesus' idea of community?

By serving within your church family, you can expand your students' definition of "WE" to mean more than just your small group. You can connect them with people they wouldn't normally interact with, people whose faces they would normally ignore. You can open their eyes to the stories of other people's lives and demonstrate how as a community, we can stand alongside each person in his or her time of need.

CONTACT US:

If you have any questions about this XP, you can contact the XP3 team at xp3@rethinkgroup.org. Also, we would love to see pictures and hear stories about how this XP impacted your group. E-mail us and let us know, or post a message on the XP3 Facebook page.

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