

Lesson 4 / December 28, 2025

Reaching Out

By RLD Editorial Team

for use as
STEP 1 **Lesson 4**
Focus:

Jesus calls us to reach out to anyone in need.

Lesson 4
Bible Basis:

Luke 4:14–21; 8:1–3; 17:15–18; 18:35, 38, 40–43a; 23:39–43

Lesson 4
Memory Verse:

“The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind.” —Luke 4:18

Students will consider the example of a group that reaches out to help teens in need.

Materials:☐ Internet access

This time of year, in the spirit of thanksgiving, celebration, peace, light, hope, love, and giving, it is common to reach out to those in need, sharing what we have. Especially during wintertime, we may be thinking to reach out to those who don’t have a warm home to sleep in at night. It is for this reason that an outreach organization in North Carolina does a lot of work in an effort to end youth homelessness. Here’s a video that shares some of what they do:

Play the following video for your students [1:23]:

Haven House's Crisis and Homelessness Programs - Overview

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V2uslcyuGHE>

➤ **What does Haven House Services do to help teenagers in need?** (They provide a shelter for young people experiencing homelessness. In addition to providing a place for young people to stay, they also do street outreach to pass out necessary supplies and help connect youth with long-term housing options.)

➤ **What is the impact of reaching out with these offers?** (These offers meet immediate physical needs as well as more internal psychological/emotional needs, all of which helps people get out of the cycle that brings them down and allows them to meet their own needs and contribute.)

This organization meets the immediate needs of homeless youth in their area, but they do it with an aim to show care for youth in addition to providing food and shelter. Because Haven House Services offers necessary supplies and a place to sleep, these young people can feel human, seen, and significant.

Today we will see a deep display of care from Jesus for folks who may have otherwise been ignored by society. Jesus met immediate needs and treated everyone with dignity, but additionally offered something only He could provide—the good news of the Gospel, which He said is for everyone, not just those you expect. Jesus expects us to reach out to everyone in need on His behalf.

(Continue on to Steps 2 and 3 in your teacher's guide; your Step 4 appears below.)

high school



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Materials:

☐ None

Jesus understood that His purpose in life was to bring Good News, particularly to those who might have otherwise felt, or been told, that the Good News was out of their reach. As followers of Jesus, this is now our mission, too.

➤ **How would you describe Jesus’ good news using words?** (Accept all reasonable answers. This week’s memory verse tells it in tangible terms for the poor, imprisoned, and blind. This could also be read in spiritual terms. The Good News means redemption, salvation, and new life with God, now and forever.)

➤ **What would Jesus’ good news look like acted out?** (Accept all reasonable answers. It would look like meeting the needs of others before looking to your own interests. It would look like humility, and a willingness to be uncomfortable or cross barriers in order to reach out. It would look like joy, justice, grace, mercy, and peace.)

➤ **What do you think you could do this week to reach out to others in a way that helps them see Jesus in a true, positive light?** (Accept all reasonable answers. Students may already be participating in a nativity or in carol singing that shares the message of Good News. Maybe they can provide food or blankets to those without, or conversation to those feeling lonely at Christmas. Whether it is a Christmas card or act of service, everyone can do something to share the Good News in a way that encourages a true sense of loving and care.)

Encourage students to remember why Jesus came as they celebrate His birth this week. Encourage them to talk with their families about how they might incorporate sharing the Good News through word or action in their Christmas celebrations this year or as a tradition in years to come.

Close in prayer.

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