



February 2019

Not Transactions, but Relationships

FOCUS SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 58:6-10, Luke 10:25-37

FOCUS MINISTRY

Building relationships through providing food

fellowship!

“Little Rock church forms alternative food pantry for its friends and neighbors”

Spring 2019

https://issuu.com/fellowship/docs/spring19_fellowship-rgb/22

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

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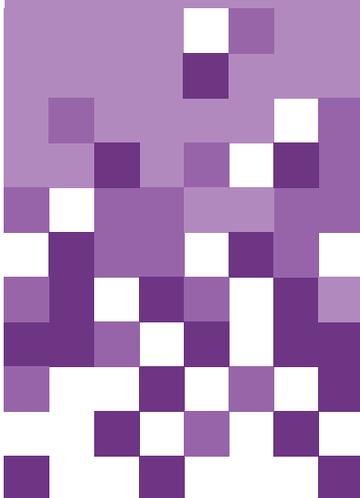
Have you experienced hunger? What was that like? Have you ever had to worry about not getting your next meal? If you haven't, can you imagine what would that be like? What if, you worried not only for providing for yourself, but for your family? There are families in your community that worry about finding enough food. How can you help with these needs?

Many cities have a Food Bank model where families come and get the food they need and leave. Pulaski Heights Baptist Church in Little Rock, Arkansas, wanted to do more. Their solution was the Friends and Neighbors Network (FANN). “A lot of food pantries are just a transaction,” says Mande Corbett (co-coordinator of FANN). “Deeper relationships are just not feasible when you're trying to reach a large amount of folks. That can get unwieldy. With that many people, it's not practical to have much more than a transaction; so the interaction remains on the surface.” Inspired by the book, “Toxic Charity”, which champions the model of self-empowerment and dignity, the idea for FANN was born.

“The FANN at PHBC now hosts up to 12 families at a time, an average of 40 adults and children, who initially pay a \$5.00 membership fee plus dues of \$3.00 at each meeting on the first and third Tuesdays of every month. These dues belong to FANN members who all vote on how they would like to use the accumulated dues and now have a tradition of donating 100 percent to local non-profit groups with whom they have personal connections. As the leaders of their own food network, FANN members conduct bi-weekly gatherings, order food from a local food bank, transport it to meetings, unload and distribute produce and other groceries, care for the children, and plan future meetings, all possibly by funding from another of PHBC's ministries: Hillcrest Farmers Market. Ultimately, FANN members are not participating in toxic charity, Corbett explains. On the contrary, they're building a community of support for which they retain the power and responsibility.” Corbett calls it a “food pantry with dignity”.

How can you take part in meeting the needs of those around you, while also empowering them?

- **ENGAGE:** Students will think about and discuss what it means to help meet the needs of people in their community while also building relationships.
- **EQUIP:** Students will discuss how we show our faith and how we love our neighbors.
- **EXTEND:** Students will consider and discuss how we can love our neighbors by meeting physical needs and social needs.
- **MISSION PROJECT:** Students will look for ways how they can help meet needs and build relationships in their own community.





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LEARNING GOAL

Students will understand the importance of building a community as you help those in need.

GETTING READY

1. Have an adult ready to receive youth
2. Have bibles ready for scripture discussion study, and be prepared to lead on texts in Isaiah and Luke.
3. Write questions on whiteboard, chalkboard, or something similar.
 - Imagine if you worried about where your next meal was coming from? What would that be like? Who would you ask for help?
 - Are there people in your community who are hungry? How can you help them?
4. Print out the blog story about FANN at Pulaski Heights Baptist Church.
5. Print out this page here to find out more about FANN and how you can support this ministry. <http://www.phbclr.com/about/ministries/fann/>

ENGAGE

1. Welcome students to their normal meeting place.
2. Ask the students:
 - Imagine if you worried about where your next meal was coming from? What would that be like? Who would you ask for help?
 - Are there people in your community who are hungry? How can you help them?

EQUIP

1. Have youth read Isaiah 58:6-10.
2. Ask:
 - What is God asking the nation of Israel, and us the readers to do? How can we care for our neighbors who are hungry for food and clothing?
3. Have youth read Luke 10:25-37.
4. Ask:
 - Where do you see yourself in this story?
 - If you wrote this story in a modern context, who would the characters be?
 - What is Jesus asking us to do based on this story?



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EXTEND

1. Read the article about FANN at Pulaski Heights Baptist Church
 - According to Mande Corbett: What model was not working for helping with food needs?
 - What inspired the people at Pulaski Heights to do better than a food pantry model? Do you agree with their model?
 - What would this FANN model look like in your community? How could you participate?
 - How can you help others, but also empower them and build a relationship with them? Learn from them, and they learn from you? What would that look like?
2. Read with the students about FANN here and discuss ways they can support FANN: Print out this page here to find out more about FANN and how you can support this ministry. <http://www.phbclr.com/about/ministries/fann/>

MISSION PROJECT

1. Are there people in your community who need food and relationship? How can you help them?
 - Take a tour of a local food pantry. Collect supplies that they need. Volunteer if you can.
 - After helping out at the local food pantry, is there another organization that is helping with relationship building? Can the food pantry and this organization work together? What would that look like? Can your church help in such a partnership?
 - Is there an organization your church currently partners with that builds relationships? How can you build a relationship with others, and also meet their needs?

