



Involving Teens in Mission Services

In preparation for the service, develop questions that will be texted to the youth during the mission service. I usually take my questions from the “Fast Facts” from the lessons. Your church’s tech person will text the questions, using numbers submitted by the youth.

Prior to the service, I distribute the “Fast Facts” to people from the congregation who volunteer to read them at the beginning of the service.

At the same time, we also ask all teens who have cell phones with texting abilities to submit their numbers to the tech person. The tech person enters all the phone numbers as a group into his/her cell phone, so the the questions can be sent at the same time to all.

At a predetermined time during the service, a question is sent via text, and the first teen that texts the right answer wins! He/she gets to pick something out of my basket of prizes.

I do not go over a dollar each for the prizes. It is amazing what teens will do for a pack of gum or their favorite liter of pop or tea. You can also find some really great items in the clearance aisle or dollar store.

This activity has taught me that when I do this the youth pay attention to the whole service. Some of the “Fast Facts” used in the questions also show up in other areas of the lesson.

For those who do not have cell phones or no texting, they are given a separate set of questions. The person running PowerPoint or media types and projects a question on the screen for these students. The first to stand up with the right answer also wins. The media person also projects the correct answer, along with the name of the teen, if known.

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