

# LET'S LEARN STEP UP AND SPEAK OUT!

## Module 2 – Stand Up for Literacy

### What's the issue?



Literacy is the ability to read and write sufficiently well to learn at school, to develop new skills, and to compare and contrast information and make inferences. Learning to read and write can be inhibited by unidentified learning disabilities, lack of books at home, a difficult home environment, poverty, or lack of stimulation.

Literacy is important for social and economic development of our society.

### What do we already know?

Explore these questions to find out what the students already know and to share impressions. Take time to explore these questions over several meetings.

- What do you read? What do you like to read? Do you know other people who like to read?
- Do you like to write? Do you know other people who like to write?
- What makes reading fun? What makes it difficult?
- Who encourages you to read? Who appreciates your writing?
- Do you know anyone who is unable to read or write in their own language?
- Why do you think people have trouble learning to read or write?

### Facts and Words to Know about Literacy

California ranks lowest in literacy rates in the US. Overall in the US, about 1 in 5 adults have low literacy skills. Of those who have low English literacy skills, 35% are White, 2% of whom are born outside of the U.S.; 23% are Black, 3% of whom are born outside of the U.S.; 34% are Hispanic, 24% of whom are born outside of the U.S.; 8% are of other races/ethnicities.

2/3 of students who cannot read proficiently by the end of 4th grade will end up in jail or on welfare. Over 70% of America's inmates cannot read above a 4th grade level. Students who don't read proficiently by the 3rd grade are 4 times likelier to drop out of school.

Words to learn:

- Literate; literacy
- Dyslexia

### Experience the challenges to literacy:

- What is it like to read in a noisy, distracting environment? Create a situation with many distractions (TV on, loud music, arguing) and ask a member to read to the group. Is it easy or difficult?
- Print up signs for a scavenger hunt in a foreign language so members can experience the challenges to non-English speakers in an English-speaking environment.
- Take a library tour.
- Print out examples of "what dyslexics see" from Google images and share with the group.

## What are the 2 Feet of Love in Action?

When someone needs our help, we use both of our feet to be love in action. The **charity** step is to help with immediate needs (attention, food, medication), the **justice** step is to find the root of the problem and work to make change.

### First Foot Acts of Charity

#### Ideas for Charity

Provide books for your church classroom which broaden its spectrum of diversity and inclusion.

Pick a campaign at <https://www.dosomething.org/us/causes/education> and report your results on the site.

Raise money to build and register a little library on your church site. Make a plan to maintain it!

Host a holiday themed reading hour at church.

Collect pennies for the CPC Miles of Pennies program.

### Second Foot Acts of Justice

#### Ideas for Justice

Contact your school district to obtain statistics on literacy in your community. Can the district provide information on challenges to literacy in the area and programs offered? Ask how you can help.

Contact your local library to find out what types of literacy programs are offered. Should you lobby for more? How can you support the program?

#### Resources on Literacy

Church Periodical Club

Ideas for Campaigns:

<https://www.dosomething.org/us/causes/education>

Learning Disability Resources Foundation: [www.ldrfa.org](http://www.ldrfa.org)

Bookstore and Book Club  
[www.barefootbooks.com](http://www.barefootbooks.com)



## What's next?

### You can Dig Deeper or Lighten it Up!



**Faith Connections**

Think of a Bible story or verse which goes with this issue.

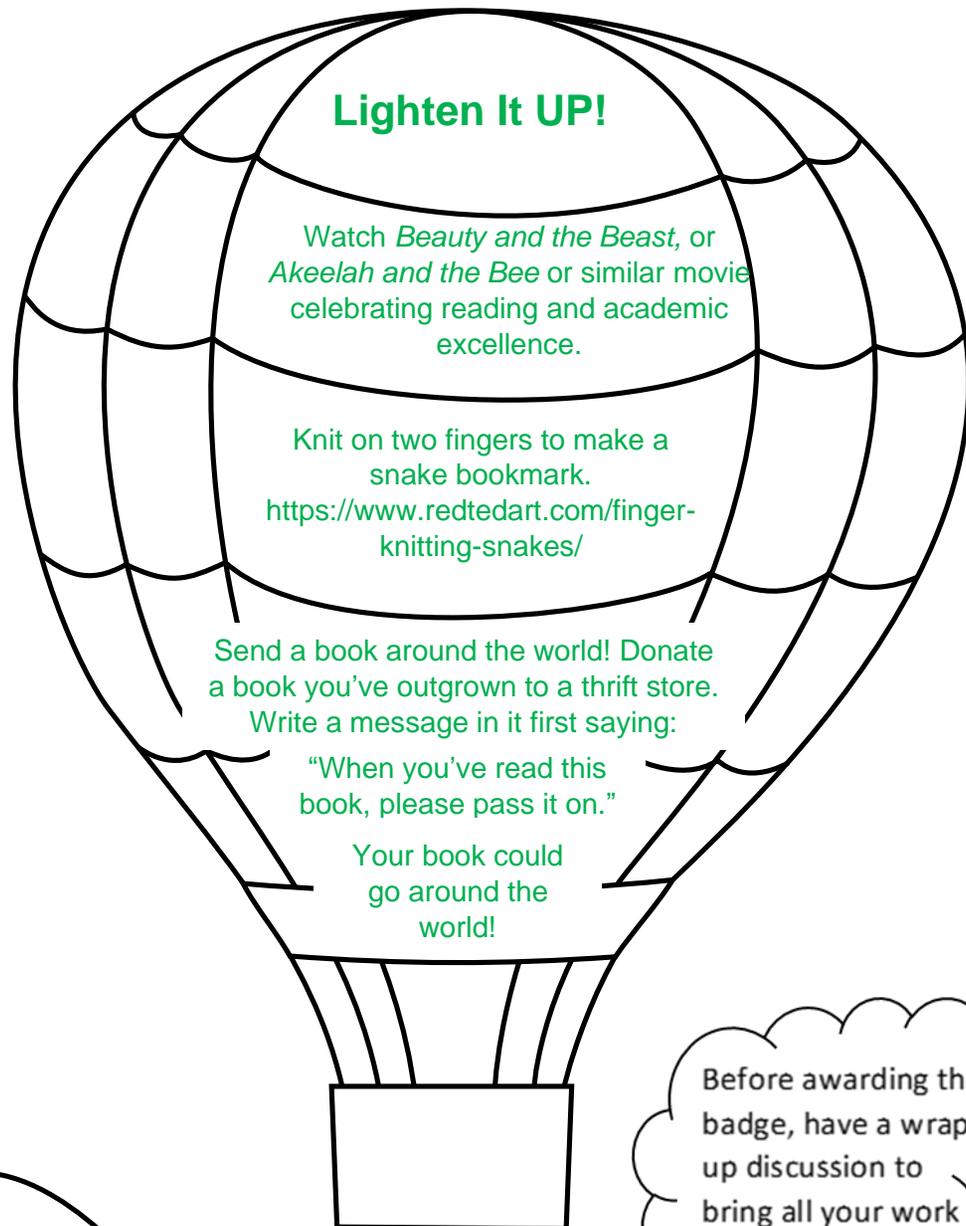
Discuss the meaning of the GFS motto "Bear Ye One Another's Burdens"

What is different about a Christian's approach to social justice?

Host a Diversity Book Club - <https://www.dosomething.org/us/campaigns/diversity-book-club>

Look up Laura Moulton, found of Street Books – a bicycle library for the homeless.

Learn about math dyslexia.



A program provided by GFS in the Diocese of Los Angeles (2021)