**Big Questions**

1. How should we respond to crisis?
2. How do we respond to the suffering of others? How would we like others to respond to our own?
3. What do those with more owe to those with less?
4. How should we respond to people and communities in need?
5. Is it important to set boundaries? Why?
6. What are the limits of my ability to help or serve?
7. Is my service effective? How do I know?
8. When we volunteer for an organization, what obligations do we take on?

**Opening Exercise/Activity**

The below activity can be done first individually where each participant takes some time to reflect individually and then it can stop there or be shared in a pair or shared in the larger group.

* Have you ever been in a situation in which you made a decision one way or another to help someone because of something about that person you deemed to be okay or not okay? If so, please share.

**Clarification Questions**

1. Why does the narrator pick up the man in the road?
2. What sort of help does the man need?
3. Does the dog matter? How?
4. What help does the narrator offer?
5. What help does the narrator not offer?
6. What is the narrator stuck with?
7. What kind of condition is the man in need in? Does this impact how the narrator sees him?
8. Why do the narrator's kids cry?
9. What does the narrator mean, “my wife trusts me to be the man she hopes I am”? What qualities does that man possess?
10. At the end of this poem, which of the characters are “okay,” and why?
11. What do you think of the title?
12. At the end of the story, the narrator says he can relate to the man in need as he fumbles in his empty pocket for change. What do you think of that line?

**Significance and Implication Questions**

1. How do we learn to stop or not stop?
2. Do you judge the narrator or sympathize with him? Or both?
3. What do we deem to be okay and not okay in terms of people in need?
4. Are there people in society that are perceived as not being okay to help? Are there people in society that are perceived to being okay to help?
5. Is it important to set boundaries with those we serve? Why or why not?
6. As you think about your year of service, what are the limits of your ability to help or serve?
7. Do you think your service is effective? Why or why not? How do you know?
8. As an AmeriCorps member who has signed on for a year of service, what obligations do we take on?
9. When we serve, do we keep a distance from those we serve? Why or why not?

**Closing Exercise/Activity**

The below option can be done 1) individually only; or 2) individually and then share in a pair, small group or large group:

* What is 1 thing you are thinking about as a result of this reading and discussion?