

LIFE 2.0: Serving Others

St. Peter's Church

stpetersfreehold.org

Take Home Sheet

Why Serve?

Sometimes we may wonder, "why serve?" Whose responsibility is it to serve people that are in need? As Christians, we have a clear command from Jesus, in Mark 12:30-31, when he tells us:

"This is the most important: ...you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. The second command is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' No other commandment is greater than these."

And in case we wonder who our neighbor may be, Jesus has an answer for that, too. In Luke 10:30-37 he tells us the story of the Good Samaritan, and we learn that "our neighbor" may be a person...

- ...in need
- ...who could not help him/herself
- ...of a different ethnicity
- ...of a different religion
- ...who had nothing to offer in return
- ...who required a risk*

Think about how you are called to serve your neighbors!

* From Dillon Burroughs, "Luke 10: Who Is My Neighbor?" published on March 17, 2011 on www.patheos.com



A Faith at Home Activity: Creating a Love-Your-Neighbor Jar

Use this activity from Vibrant Faith at Home to help your family keep serving others as a regular habit.

1. Say this prayer aloud:
God, we know there are people who need our help. Help us to be good neighbors, and to show your love to others. Amen.
2. Read aloud from Mark 12:28-31 about the Great Commandment. What does Jesus mean by 'love your neighbor as yourself'? In what ways might our family do this?
3. Find a jar or container and label it "Love Your Neighbor." Decorate it!
4. On small pieces of paper, write out the following activities:

Gather loose change from around the house and use it to buy food for a local food pantry.

Choose some gently used clothes and/or toys to bring to the Thrift Shop.

Check your church bulletin for a list of people in need of prayer. Take time to pray for each one.

Put on work gloves. Walk around the neighborhood and pick up any trash you see.

As a family, offer to help a neighbor with some yardwork. Or, sweep a neighbor's sidewalk!

Telephone an older family member or neighbor to visit and share news.

Pick flowers or vegetables from your garden and take them to a neighbor. Or, draw a picture!

List your own idea here!

5. Choose a day each week to draw a slip and work together as a family to do the act of love described on it. Modify as needed to fit your family or your community. After you draw the paper, say this prayer:

Dear God, may our words and deeds help someone today. Amen.

<http://www.vibrantfaithathome.org/item/love-your-neighbor-jar>

What the Bible says about serving others...

Mark 9:35

[Jesus] sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, "Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all."

Matthew 25:34-36, 40

"Come, you that are blessed by my Father...for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me... Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the last of these who are members of my family, you did it to me."

Proverbs 19:17

Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the Lord, and will be repaid in full.

Hebrews 13:2-3, 16

Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them; those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured... Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

Acts 20:35

In all this I have given you an example that by such work we must support the weak, remembering the words of the Lord Jesus, for he himself said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

1 John 3:17-18

How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help? Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action.

Involving Children in Mission

By Liz Perraud, excerpted from BuildFaith.org

When we involve young people in mission (serving others), we help nurture them into discipleship by teaching them to care for others and by providing them with opportunities to serve. Congregations often find ways to do this with older youth, but how about our youngest brothers and sisters in Christ? What are we doing to further their heart for service to others?

There are (at least!) six good reasons to involve children in mission:

1. To affirm them as valuable children of God
2. To demonstrate that they are the church of today as well as tomorrow
3. To encourage their spiritual development as disciples of Jesus Christ
4. To ingrain discipleship as a response to God's love for all people
5. To teach social and moral responsibility for others
6. Because they are capable and want to help



Local Opportunities for Service:

- St. Peter's Thrift Store: *collecting clothing, household items, and toys for donation*
- Friday Night Community Suppers: *bringing food items, helping set-up and serve (ages 8+)*
- Emergency Housing & Advocacy Program: *money donations, HS and adult volunteers*
- Open Door: *food donations*