

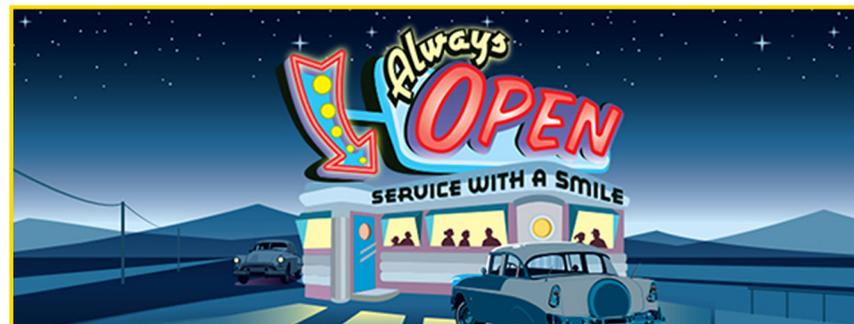
WEEK TWO

1 PETER 4:10-11

Meet People's Needs

SAY
THIS

Look for ways to
serve others.



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Look for ways to
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DO
THIS



MEAL TIME

Q & A for kids: What holds you back from serving others sometimes?

Q & A for parents: Share about a time someone served you and it brought you joy.

REMEMBER THIS

"Jesus sat down and called for the 12 disciples to come to him. Then he said, "Anyone who wants to be first must be the very last. They must be the servant of everyone."
Mark 9:35, NIV

LIFE
APP

SERVICE—Lending a hand to help someone else

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SERVICE—Lending a hand to help someone else

3 WAYS TO TEACH YOUR KIDS TO BE SERVANT-HEARTED

As parents, we all want our kids to grow up to be compassionate, generous adults who serve others well. And if you watch your kids closely, you'll see evidence of empathy in their nature—in how they kiss their stuffed animals, doctor your (fake) boo boos, and freely give their love to family pets.

But their natural capacity for compassion has to compete with a number of other developmental and environmental forces. A kid's lack of impulse control prompts them to snatch their toy from their sister. And their belief that they are the center of the universe makes it difficult for them to let their friend choose which movie they watch. Those factors, combined with our self-centered culture can make it feel impossible to raise a kid who is servant-hearted.

Service, the Life App for this month, is defined as "Lending a hand to help someone else." How can we teach our kids to embody this principle? How can we teach our kids to use their hands to give instead of take?

Here are a few ideas:

- **Practice what you preach.** Our kids are watching what we do all the time. They observe how we treat servers at restaurants. They see how we talk to AND about other family members. They're watching how we choose to give (or not to give) of our time and resources. Our words,

thoughts, and actions will influence our kid's future words, thoughts, and actions more than we can know.

- **Create a rhythm of service.** Service year-round teaches you and your family to actively look for ways to help others. Think of ways your family can give your money, your talents, and your resources to help those in need. Set a few family, service-oriented goals for the next several months. Write them down and post them where everyone can see.
- **Reinforce what you want repeated.** Just like with any other behavior you want repeated, we should make a BIG deal when our kids lend a hand to help others. Even something as simple as helping you put away groceries should be encouraged and rewarded with words of thanks—or even a special snack! Look for ways your kids are serving and praise them in front of others.

Start with one of these suggestions and go from there. Watch with wonder as your kid learns to lend a hand to help someone else.

For more blog posts
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