

✘ Service to Others ✘

YOUNG PERSON SERVES IN THE COMMUNITY ONE HOUR OR MORE PER WEEK.

By Josh Bernau

Edited by Lyle Griner and Marie Sundet © 2006 The Youth & Family Institute, Bloomington, MN

Josh is a senior at Concordia University, St. Paul who likes to think outside of the box. As a result he has designed his own major at Concordia. He is also a Youth Minister at Jehovah Lutheran Church in St. Paul and finds a prime expression of Christianity developed within the family setting. While being currently engaged to his wonderful bride-to-be, Leah, his intentions are to go to seminary in St. Louis to prepare for pastoral ministry.

Foot Wash

John 13:3-17 ...he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet...

Chat Time!

- Describe someone who seems to enjoy helping or serving others. What motivates that person?
- What images and personal reactions come to mind when you see words like:
*Serve – Help – Care – Volunteer – Give back to community – Lend a Hand
 Mission – Assist – Aid – Give – Support – Donate*
- How are people in service and servant roles treated by others?
- How often do you give service to others? What do you do? For whom?
- What talents or gifts do you like to use most when you serve?
- Explain what you like and dislike about being a servant.
- What do you get from serving?
- What happens when you don't get anything? When no one even says thanks?
- In our relationship with God are we the servants or is God the servant? Explain.
- Why would God want you to be a servant? Why choose you?

EXPLORE



Galatians 5:13-14	You shall love your neighbor as yourself.
Isaiah 6: 8 – 10	And I said, "Here am I; send me!
1 Timothy 4:12	Let no one despise your youth, but...
Romans 12:9-13	...extend hospitality to strangers.
1 Peter 4:8-11	...serve one another with whatever gift...
Philippians 2:3-11	...look not to your own interests, but to the...

So What?



Mother Teresa was a nun who served the poor and dying in India by establishing homes and hospitals where they could come to die with dignity. Many came to work beside and learn from her. She told people who worked with her in Calcutta to then find their own Calcutta to serve in.

Where is your Calcutta? In other words; where is your place of service?

Candle Time



Let each person begin with the following words, completing the sentence with his or her own prayer response. Keep in mind the wide variety of ways to serve

"I'm your servant Lord. My response to your love is to serve others by..."

Imagine what the world would be like if everyone prayed this way daily!



Leader Page

Discussion Goal

Service is a lifestyle, a way of responding to God's love and grace.

Background

At the time of Jesus, feet were very worn and dirty by the end of the day. As people entered a house the washing of grubby, dirty feet was the job of a lowly servant. When washing his disciples feet Jesus said, "For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you." Then mention that through this Bible study we are going to further explore what it means to exemplify service to one another.

Service is not an assignment, a project, merit page, requirement, punishment for a crime, or something done in order to look good on a college application. Service is a response to the love and grace of God. It is a way of living. For many, service stops at saying, "I did enough!" or "I did my part." Service is a reflection of who we are in Christ. Service, when we use the gifts that God has given, proclaims God's grace (1 Peter 4:10).

Help youth recognize the important role service plays in church, school, community, country and their life. Encourage youth in specific areas of service, each according to the gifts God has given them (1 Peter 4:8-11).

Motivate: Foot Wash

Begin by asking everyone to take off shoes and socks. Bring out a tub of soap and water and ask them to one-by-one sit down in a chair while you wash their feet. This is to be a direct reference to Jesus becoming a servant to his disciples and washing their feet (John 13:1-17).

Optional Song

Hammer and Nail: by Indigo Girls
From CD: Nomads Indians Saints



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