



Practicing Service

*Do justice, love kindness,
and walk humbly
with your God. Micah 6:8 (NASB)*

Service begins with a spirit of compassion that wells up within as we notice the needs of others. Talking with children about needs that people face in response to health crises or natural disasters helps us raise awareness and sensitivity to needs. Responding to the needs of others transforms us as it helps us look beyond ourselves and our own needs.

1. Sing about sharing God's love and light:

This little light of mine,
I'm gonna let it shine, (2x)
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Let it shine til Jesus comes,
I'm gonna let it shine, (2x)
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Or watch and learn this one from Micah 6:8...
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l8Mm90ABIAo>

2. Help your children think about fairness and kindness. Talk with them about times when others seem to be left out. Encourage your children to reach out to help other children feel included in the cafeteria or on the playground.¹

3. Clean up a public park or playground. Help your children sweep sand and gravel off slides and swings. Pick up trash, leaves, sticks, and grass from sidewalks and sandboxes.²

4. Choose to be in solidarity with those who don't know when their next meal will be.

Plan a simple meal of water and one food item for your family to eat together. Perhaps rice and beans? peanut butter and jelly? Talk about how it might feel when you don't have enough money to buy groceries.

5. Expose your family to those who are economically challenged. Plan occasional service days at a food pantry or homeless shelter. If you help to serve a meal, look for ways to interact with people in the dining room.

6. Prayer is a powerful way to serve!

Intercessory prayer - pleading to God on behalf of others - is a great beginning to service. Pray with your kids about the people and situations you encounter as you are serving. Pray with your kids for family and friends when they are in need. Pray with your kids about things you see or hear in the news. Talk with them about how Jesus might invite you to respond.³

Created by Sharon Witmer Yoder 2017; Updated 2020.

¹ Karen Marie Yust, *Real Kids, Real Faith: Practices for Nurturing Children's Spiritual Lives* (San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2004), 154.

² Yust, 155.

³ Yust, 150.