

PARENT/STUDENT SERVING GUIDE

11th Grade Conversation

OBJECTIVE

The goal is to encourage your teen to be involved in serving either the local church or an organization. If they are serving in the local church or a local organization, this is a great time to encourage them about using those gifts to serve.

THE 411

Your teen has been given gifts and talents to serve the kingdom of God, whether that is serving in the local church or serving in the community with a local organization. This is a great time to encourage your teen to be serving on a regular basis. That will take time, commitment and priority. Please emphasize the importance of serving regularly in the local church, and elsewhere. Teens are forming their habits right now for when they leave for college. If they can develop the habit and love for serving in the local church, the more likely they will continue that as they go off to college. How awesome and incredible will that be to see your teen using their gifts and talents on a regular basis to serve the kingdom of God. Take this opportunity to encourage your teen to use their gifts and talents to serve on a regular basis in the church or with a local organization they are passionate about.

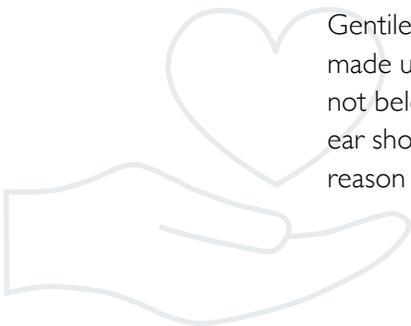
SUGGESTION

TEEN WHO IS SERVING ON A REGULAR BASIS IN THE CHURCH OR AT A LOCAL ORGANIZATION

If this is your teen, take them out to breakfast before church or on a Saturday and discuss these talking points with them.

ASK: What are you enjoying about serving?
What has been difficult or most challenging?
What are you learning about yourself through this?
How do you see God using you each week?
Looking to the future, how will you continue to serve when you go off to college in a few years? *This will plant the seed that serving doesn't stop just because they go off to college. Encourage them that it will be good to find a great church at college to plug into and serve.*

READ: 1 Corinthians 12:12-26 (NIV)
"Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body – whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free – and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many. Now if the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense



of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? But in fact God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as He wanted them to be. If they were all one part, where would the body be? As it is, there are many parts, but one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, "I don't need you!" And the head cannot say to the feet, "I don't need you!" On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and the parts that we think are less honorable we treat with special honor. And the parts that are unpresentable are treated with special modesty, while our presentable parts need no special treatment. But God has put the body together, giving greater honor to the parts that lacked it, so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it."

TALK ABOUT Talk about how we all play a part in the body of Christ. Have a discussion about this passage and what it is saying.

ENCOURAGE: Encourage your teen and let them know you are proud of them for serving the church.

TEEN WHO IS NOT YET SERVING ON A REGULAR BASIS

If this is your teen, this is a great opportunity to encourage them to get engaged in serving the local church. If you are not serving anywhere either, this could be a great time for you to get plugged in as well. There are a few avenues to take. Here are some suggestions; choose which one works best.

DISCUSS: Have a discussion with your teen about serving at church in a needed area. This could be a place where both of you serve together. It could be that you discuss different areas to serve, and they choose one area while you serve in a different area.

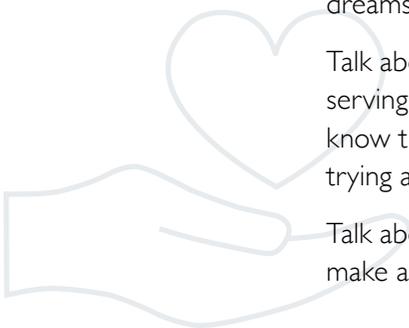
Make sure you discuss that serving the church is a blessing and that together you will need to make it a priority in your schedules.

Ask them what they are passionate about. How could they use that passion to serve the local church? Could they set up a time with the youth pastor or pastor to talk about using their gifts to serve in an area of the church?

Or, do they have a holy discontent about a social injustice such as poverty, AIDS, global hunger or something else? You could encourage them to really pray about how they could use their passion and stir in their heart to raise awareness and be part of the solution to ending poverty or global hunger. Revolutions are started by young people, and sometimes those dreams need our encouragement.

Talk about being involved in serving the local church, and then sign up somewhere and start serving. Sometimes we just have to start somewhere to find our passion area. Let your teen know that it might take serving in a few different areas to find that sweet spot but to keep trying and to keep serving.

Talk about how God has equipped us with gifts and talents – not to just sit on them but to make a difference.



READ: I Corinthians 12:12-26 (NIV)

"Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body – whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free – and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many. Now if the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? But in fact God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as He wanted them to be. If they were all one part, where would the body be? As it is, there are many parts, but one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, "I don't need you!" And the head cannot say to the feet, "I don't need you!" On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and the parts that we think are less honorable we treat with special honor. And the parts that are unpresentable are treated with special modesty, while our presentable parts need no special treatment. But God has put the body together, giving greater honor to the parts that lacked it, so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it."

DISCUSS: Have a conversation about what this passage means.

PRAY: After that conversation, spend some time praying about getting plugged into serving in the local church.

ENCOURAGE: Keep encouraging them to make the connection to serve, and then after they have been serving for a month take them out for breakfast and go through Option #1 above. You can skip the Scripture passage and just use the questions. They will love your encouragement and will love to hear your answers to those questions in the area you are serving in as well.

