

PARENT/STUDENT SERVING GUIDE

6th Grade Conversation

OBJECTIVE

Have a conversation with your student about the importance of being a servant.

THE 411

Jesus tells us that when we serve others, we are also serving Him. He also tells us that when we don't serve others it's as if we are ignoring Him.

SUGGESTION

Take your son or daughter out to serve somewhere in your community as a family. You can find serving opportunities from your church's website, by searching for volunteer opportunities on the web, or by contacting local nonprofit organizations in your community. After your serving day, take them out for ice cream and use the discussion guide below to process the importance of serving others.

DISCUSSION

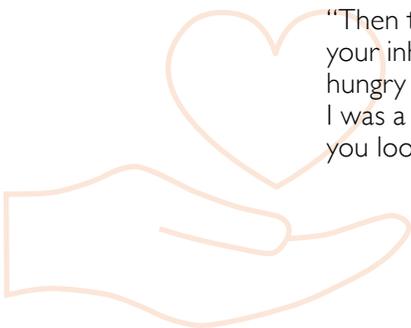
- ASK: What did you like most about serving today?
 Was there anything you didn't like about today?
 How did it make you feel to serve someone else?
 What do you think keeps us from serving others more often?
 Whom did you serve today?

SAY SOMETHING LIKE: When we serve other people, it's easy for us to see that we are actively serving them – but we are not just serving them, we are actually serving God as well. Let me read some scripture to you from the book of Matthew.

READ: **Matthew 25:31-46 (NIV)**

“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with Him, He will sit on His glorious throne. All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.

“Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.’



“Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’

“The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’

“Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry, and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.’

“They also will answer, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?’

“He will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for Me.’

“Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.”

ASK: Did you stop to think today that not only were you serving these people, but that you were also serving God? If so, how do you think you did that?

SAY SOMETHING LIKE: It’s easy for us to think that the only way we can serve God is by serving in the church or maybe even being a pastor, but we can actually serve God in many more ways. When we serve others, the scripture we just read tells us that we are actually serving God.

ASK: What are some examples of ways that you could serve God at home, school, church or when you are out with friends?

Is there something we can regularly do as a family to serve others?

PRAY

We must spend time praying with our sons and daughters. Ask God to reveal people they can serve. Ask God to help them to develop a heart for the poor, the broken, the lonely and the hurting.

