

PARENT/STUDENT SERVING GUIDE

7th Grade Conversation

OBJECTIVE

Have a conversation with your son or daughter about the importance of being a servant.

THE 411

We all feel inadequate at times when it comes to being used by God. We question our role in God's plan and even question whether we have what it takes to be used by God. We doubt our gifts and abilities and say that we aren't perfect enough for God to use us. More than likely our children wrestle with self doubt. They live in a world that constantly tells them about how they don't match up, or they don't have what it takes. But God has uniquely gifted each of us with what it takes to do the good works that He has prepared in advance for us to do.

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 your son or daughter out for ice cream and use the discussion guide below to process the importance of serving others.

DISCUSSION

ASK: When you were serving today, did you ever feel uncomfortable?
While you were serving, were you ever nervous that you were doing the wrong thing, or that you didn't have what it takes to serve?
Do you truly believe that God can use you to make a difference in the world? Why or why not?

SAY SOMETHING LIKE: It's normal for us to feel inadequate at times and feel like we don't have what it takes. There have been times in my own life when I didn't think I was good enough.
Share a personal story of a time you were afraid to do something, or when you limited yourself because you thought you weren't good enough
The truth is, God has given you all the gifts and abilities you need to do what He has planned for you.

READ: **Ephesians 2:10 (NIV)**

"For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."

SAY SOMETHING LIKE: God has created you special and He created you for a purpose and He has plans for you.

READ: **Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV)**

“For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord. Plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you a hope and future.”

SAY SOMETHING LIKE:

I want to read a story from the Bible about someone who didn't really have what it takes to do a miracle, but when he gave everything he had to Jesus, amazing things happened.

READ: **John 6:1-13 (NIV)**

“Some time after this, Jesus crossed to the far shore of the Sea of Galilee (that is, the Sea of Tiberias), and a great crowd of people followed Him because they saw the signs He had performed by healing the sick. Then Jesus went up on a mountainside and sat down with His disciples. The Jewish Passover Festival was near.

When Jesus looked up and saw a great crowd coming toward Him, He said to Philip, ‘Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?’ He asked this only to test him, for He already had in mind what He was going to do.

Philip answered him, ‘It would take more than half a year’s wages to buy enough bread for each one to have a bite!’

Another of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, spoke up, ‘Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?’

Jesus said, ‘Have the people sit down.’ There was plenty of grass in that place, and they sat down (about five thousand men were there). Jesus then took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed to those who were seated as much as they wanted. He did the same with the fish.

When they had all had enough to eat, He said to his disciples, ‘Gather the pieces that are left over. Let nothing be wasted.’ So they gathered them and filled twelve baskets with the pieces of the five barley loaves left over by those who had eaten.”

ASK: Looking at verses 8 and 9, what do you think the disciples thought about the young boy’s ability to be used by Jesus?

SAY SOMETHING LIKE:

In our eyes the little boy didn't have much, but God used him with the little bit that he had because he was willing to give everything.

ASK: What do you think you have to offer God?

What are some gifts or abilities that you recognize in your life?

SAY SOMETHING LIKE:

Some of the gifts that I see in your life are...

Share specific ways that you see God has gifted your son or daughter.

PRAY

Spend some time praying with our children. Ask God to show them some ways He plans to use them. Praise God for the ways He has gifted our sons and daughters. They will face in junior high and high school and pray that they will have the courage to trust God and His plan for their lives.