

PARENT/STUDENT SERVING GUIDE

8th Grade Conversation

OBJECTIVE

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

THE 411

Serving is important in the life of every follower of Christ because when we serve, we are acting out our faith. When we serve out of pure motives, we are filled with passion. If your student isn't yet serving on a regular basis, they need to find a place where their gifts can be used and a place where they can take ownership in their faith. It is important to serve outside of the church, but it is equally important to have an active role in the church body. When we serve within our local church, we begin to take ownership of the vision and direction of the church. It's through being an active participant in our church that our congregation becomes part of your community.

SUGGESTION

Find a place away from the house to talk about the importance of volunteering in your church body. Use the discussion guide below to help your student recognize their role in serving the local church. Then after you have finished, help your student find a ministry where they can volunteer. If you are unaware of the serving opportunities in your church, check out the church website or call the church office to inquire about different serving opportunities for your student.

DISCUSSION

- ASK:** What are your favorite things about our local church?
Can you think of any volunteers in our church who have made a difference in your life? If so, who?
What are some areas you see that our church needs more volunteers to help?

SAY SOMETHING LIKE: God has given each of us abilities and he expects us to use the abilities He has given us. He has uniquely gifted you to serve. I want to help you find an area where you can use your talents and abilities to serve our church community.

- READ:** **Romans 12:4-8 (NIV)**
⁴ For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, ⁵ so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. ⁶ We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; ⁷ if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; ⁸ if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.



SAY SOMETHING LIKE: Spiritual gifts are: “A special ability given by the Holy Spirit to every believer at their conversion to be used to minister to others and therefore build up the Body of Christ.”
-Peter Wagner, Fuller Theological Seminary

Spiritual gifts are different from our abilities and talents because when you choose to accept Christ, the Holy Spirit gave you a special gift. Examples of spiritual gifts are: evangelizing, teaching, encouraging, discernment, knowledge, hospitality, giving, serving, prayer, etc.

When we combine those spiritual gifts with our natural talents and abilities, God uses us in mighty ways.

ASK: Do you believe the Holy Spirit has given you a special gift? If so, what do you think it is? Why do you believe that?

Parents: There are online spiritual gift assessment tools, or your church may offer a SHAPE class to help you determine your spiritual gifts. A great next step for you and your student would be to take that class together.

What are some of the talents or abilities you believe God has given you?

Do you ever feel like God can't use you because you don't have the gifting someone else has?

SAY SOMETHING LIKE: At times we look at other people and think they have it all together. We think we can't serve God because we aren't perfect like some people appear to be, or we can't serve because we aren't as smart as some people are. Or, we aren't as athletic or cool, so we think we aren't valuable, but that really isn't true at all.

READ: **I Corinthians 12:14-27 (NIV)**

¹⁴Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many.

¹⁵ 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. ¹⁶ 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. ¹⁷ 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? ¹⁸ But in fact God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. ¹⁹ If they were all one part, where would the body be? ²⁰ As it is, there are many parts, but one body.

²¹ 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!” ²² On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, ²³ 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, ²⁴ while our presentable parts need no special treatment. But God has put the body together, giving greater honor to the parts that lacked it, ²⁵ so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. ²⁶ If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it.

²⁷ Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.

SAY SOMETHING LIKE: You have a valuable role to play in the church and I believe that if you start volunteering it will help you take more ownership in your faith.

- ASK:
- Do you think that you could step up and volunteer in our church?
 - Do you think God could use you to make a difference in someone else's life?
 - Is there a particular ministry in our church that you'd like to volunteer in?
 - How often would you be willing to serve?

PRAY

Spend some time praying with your student. Ask God to show your student some ways that He plans to use them. Praise God for the ways He has gifted your son/daughter. Pray for opportunities for your student to use their talents in the local church.

