

SUMMER OF SERVICE Kit

Serve your family, community and world!

SUMMER OF SERVICE KIT

God has a part for everyone to play in His larger story. This summer, we want to come alongside your parenting journey and encourage your kids to serve their family, community and world. Serving is something everyone can do whether it's together as a family, a community, a church group or as a personal project.

Have you heard "I'm bored" yet this summer? If you have, serving can be a great way to get kids thinking about the needs of something or someone else. This kit is filled with simple yet fun ideas to answer a call to serve or A.C.T.S.!—the Adventures In Odyssey® Summer of Service Challenge.



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SERVING OTHERS

Learn About Serving Others Using Family Devotions and Prayer

A great way for kids to begin learning about what serving others is all about is taking time to talk about it during family devotions or prayer time. The following four devotions are from *90 Devotions For Kids* from Adventures In Odyssey.

Serving Others

[Jesus said,] “Anything you did for one of the least important of these brothers of mine, you did for me.”

Matthew 25:40 (NIRV)

What does it mean to serve someone? You might think of the waiter at a restaurant who takes your order, brings the food, refills your water glass and asks, “Is there anything else I can get for you?” But there are lots of ways you can serve people. And whenever you do, you also serve the Lord. Jesus even said so! One day Jesus was hanging out with His disciples, telling them about His future kingdom. As King, Jesus will honor those who have served Him well—His “sheep.”

When the sheep come before Him on judgment day, He’ll say, “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 gave them to me. I was sick. And you took care of me. I was in prison. And you came to visit me. . . . Anything you did for one of the least important of these brothers of mine, you did for me.” (See Matthew 25:35–40 [NIRV].) Wow!

The message is clear: Whenever you do things for other people, you’re serving Jesus, too. It may be hard. It will probably cost you something. You might not get a thank you. But that shouldn’t matter, because it’s still putting a great big smile on God’s face!



SERVING OTHERS

Me Third = JOY

We should not look out for our own interests. Instead, we should look out for the interests of others.

1 Corinthians 10:24 (NIRV)

It was the day they'd been waiting for. George and Henry's big moment had finally arrived.

"After you," George said, stepping aside.

"No, no. You really should go first," Henry replied.

George smiled, "No, my friend, I insist that you go ahead of me."

This went on for quite some time until a gentleman stepped in and said, "Hey, you two, cut it out and keep the line moving. The executioner goes home in 10 minutes."

Okay, maybe George and Henry weren't as unselfish as we thought. Still, humbly putting others first is usually a sign of a generous servant's heart. For example, suppose you want to play soccer, but you find out your friend has a sprained ankle.

You may be tempted to say, "Oh, well, I'll call someone else." But how about offering to play a board game together instead? Or suppose Mom has left you and your brother the last two slices of pizza. Do you grab the bigger one and launch into a victory dance, or do you let your brother choose? Serving others means considering their interests ahead of our own. That can be a challenge, can't it?

A good motto for Christian living is "Me Third." Naturally, God comes first. Second, we should focus on the needs of other people, just as the Bible says in 1 Corinthians 10:24 and Philippians 2:3–4. Then it's okay to look out for ourselves. Another way to remember this principle is by using the letters in the word *joy*—Jesus, Others, You. Since the Lord has promised to take care of our needs, that frees us up to look after everyone else. So stand out. Be different. Decide today that you'll relax and trust God to care for you while you pursue joy.



SERVING OTHERS

Set Your World on Fire

Serve your masters with all your heart. Work as if you were not serving people but the Lord.

Ephesians 6:7 (NIRV)

Do you like firecrackers? Campfire s'mores? How about scented candles that make the house smell like lilac? If so, thank English chemist John Walker. Oh, he's not responsible for any of those things. But if he hadn't invented matches in 1827, lighting a fuse, a fire or a candlewick would be awfully difficult today. Even though John Walker is no longer with us, he provided a service that lives on every time somebody strikes a match. This week we're learning about serving others. Usually, that involves family members, like helping Mom clear off the dinner table or walking a golden tin of chocolate chip cookies to Grandma's house. But God has also given you talents you can use to make the world a better place. Wouldn't it be great to cure a disease, design an amusement park or write a hit song that inspires millions of people?

Well, what's stopping you? After all, every world changer started out as a kid with a dream.

In the meantime, you can have a lasting impact on your school, church or neighborhood.

"How do I do that?" you might ask. "Should I pick up trash? Plant a tree? Become class president and campaign for jelly-bean Tuesdays and flip-flop Fridays?" Sure, you could go that route. The possibilities are endless. Do you remember when Eugene and Katrina created the nonprofit organization Hand Up? In the *Odyssey* episode *Blood, Sweat, and Fears* (Album 47), they even helped the local hospital host a blood drive, and the whole gang at Whit's End pitched in.

No matter how you use your talents in public service, you should always put God first, people second, and strive for excellence and redirect any glory to God. Ask Him how He wants to use you. Then get ready to set your world on fire!



SERVING OTHERS

Ten Thirsty Camels

So when we can do good to everyone, let us do it. Let us make a special point of doing good to those who belong to the family of believers.

Galatians 6:10 (NIRV)

Camels drink a lot. Did you know that a thirsty camel can slurp up between 26 and 40 gallons of water at a time? That's important to know if you're ever in line behind a camel at a drinking fountain. It also gives us a deeper appreciation of Rebekah's kind service to Abraham's servant in Genesis 24. Abraham had sent his servant on a journey to find a wife for his son Isaac. Who would it be? They didn't know, but the servant set off with 10 camels, most of them loaded down with gifts for the girl's father.

After traveling awhile, he stopped near a well where young women drew water. He prayed and thought of a test. He would ask one of the women for a drink, and if she offered to water his camels, too, he would know that she was God's choice for Isaac.

Sure enough, along came Rebekah, who gave the servant a drink and then said, "I'll get water for your camels, too. I'll keep doing it until they finish drinking," (verse 19). How long do you think it took Rebekah to serve this stranger?

Let's do the math. If her jar held three gallons, and each camel needed about 36 gallons to quench its thirst, how many times would she need to fill her jar to satisfy 10 camels? If you want to figure it out on your own, stop reading. If you're not a big fan of word problems, the answer is a whopping 120 times! Now that's generosity. That's sacrifice. That's gotta leave a girl's arms feeling like linguini! Rebekah had no idea there was anything in it for her. She was just being kind. If Rebekah could go that far to serve a total stranger, how far are you willing to go to show kindness to the people you meet?



SERVING OTHERS

A.C.T.S.! Hand Activity

Part of serving others is praying for them. A.C.T.S.! provides an easy pattern to follow:

- (A) Adoration** Adoration is an act of paying honor or worship. Start your prayer by thanking God for who He is.
- (C) Confession** Confession allows us to say we are sorry for something we may have thought, said or done that displeases God.
- (T) Thanksgiving** Next, say thank you to God for blessings in your life.
- (S) Supplication** Finally, pray for others and then yourself.

A simple way to think about this is by using your hand. Your thumb reminds you to pray for those closest to you like your family. Your pointer finger can remind you to pray for those that point others to Jesus like teachers, pastors or missionaries. Your tallest finger can remind you to pray for those in leadership or in government. Your fourth finger is actually your weakest finger and can remind you to pray for those suffering. Finally, your little finger can remind you to pray for yourself.

► You can find more devotional thoughts on service at whitsend.org/acts.



**Use your hands to
remind you to pray!**



SERVING OTHERS

Servant Saying Puzzle/Code Activity

John Wooden is considered one of the greatest college basketball coaches who ever lived. During his 27 seasons at UCLA, this godly man inspired hundreds of players and even won 10 national championships! Use the key below to decode a wise statement Coach Wooden once made about serving others.

	1	2	3	4	5	6
A	H	F	C	B	S	R
B	O	L	A	U	I	E
C	W	Y	T	G	N	D

Bonus:

You may have noticed that each of the six columns in the code grid spells a three-letter word. Challenge each member of your family to craft a single sentence that uses all six words (and whatever other words you want to add). Once you're finished, share your sentences to see the different results.

Answer on page 16.

"
A3 B1 C5 A5 B5 C6 B6 A6 C3 A1 B6
A6 B5 C4 A1 C3 A5 B1 A2
B1 C3 A1 B6 A6 A5 A4 B6 A2 B1 A6 B6
C2 B1 B4 A6 B1 C1 C5
A2 B6 B6 B2 B5 C5 C4 A5 B3 C5 C6
C3 A1 B6 A2 B6 B6 B2 B5 C5 C4 A5
B1 A2 B1 C3 A1 B6 A6 A5
A4 B6 A2 B1 A6 B6 C2 B1 B4 A6
B1 C1 C5 A6 B5 C4 A1 C3 A5."



SERVE YOUR FAMILY

Family Service Jar

Create a family service jar or box by printing these ideas, cutting and folding the slips of paper and placing them into a container.

Kids: Serve your parents	Parents: Serve your kids
Do something helpful without being asked.	 Read 1 extra bedtime story.
 B e ready to leave for school or church early, so your parents don't have to wait for you.	Offer to do the dishes if the kids normally do them.
Obey without talking back.	 P lan a surprise trip to the pool or beach.
 W rite a letter or draw a picture to tell your parents you love them. 	 G ive grace when a child doesn't live up to your expectations.
T hink of something nice you want someone to do for you, and do that same thing for your parents.	 S erve a food that is your children's favorite.
 P ick up your toys & art supplies.	 A llow children to do a chore their way, as long as it's done on time.
 G o to bed without complaining.	 S top getting "everything done" and spend an hour playing.
 M ake breakfast in bed for your parents.	 M ake lemonade or ice tea. Then sit on the deck and talk about the day with your children.
 O ffer to do the dishes even when it's not your night. 	 B ring out photographs of your children and share a special story with each one.
A sks them how their day was and listen to the answer.	 W atch your children's favorite show with them, all the way through. 

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SERVE YOUR FAMILY

Foot Washing (From *90 Devotions For Kids*)

Invite your family to join you for “a special event.” Don’t tell them you’ll be washing their feet. Don’t worry; it’s not as gross as it sounds. Put a little water in a large bowl. Soak a washcloth and place the bowl under their feet to catch the runoff. Then dry their feet with a towel. As you wash each family member’s feet, tell that person something you appreciate about him or her. Be sincere. You are honoring them. Even if your brothers or sisters have trouble taking you seriously, make this an act of worship. And no tickling!

- ▶ You can find more “serve your family” ideas at whitsend.org/acts.



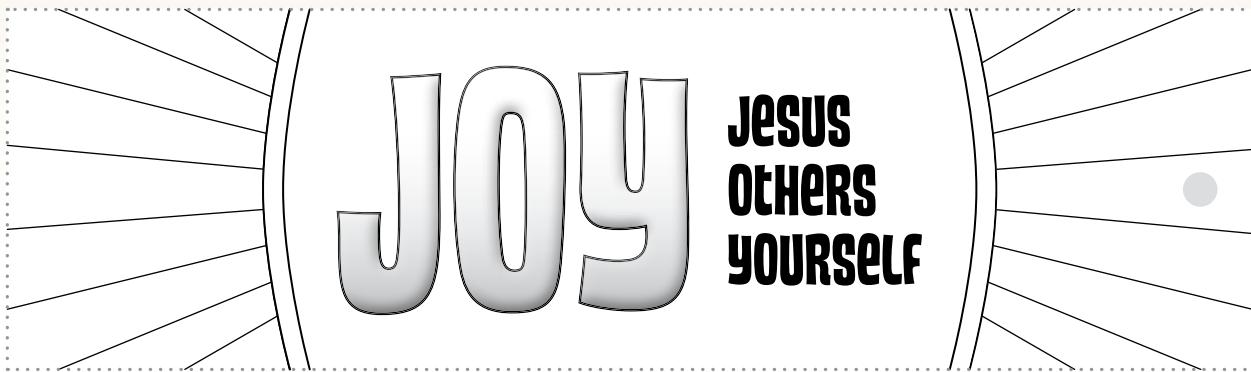
**There are many ways to
serve your family right at home!**



SERVE YOUR COMMUNITY

Create a JOY Bookmark

JOY provides a great reminder to serve others. JOY stands for Jesus, Others and Yourself. Make a bookmark to use in your Bible or in another book you read daily. Print this sample design on cardstock to color and remember "JOY." Use a hole punch and tie a ribbon or yarn at the top to help you mark your place.



**Take time to serve
your community!**





SERVE YOUR COMMUNITY

Do Surprise Acts of Service

Surprise your community with simple acts of service. The next time you pay for someone behind you or leave cookies at a front door, leave this simple note behind.

- ▶ You can find more “serve your community” ideas at whitsend.org/acts.





SERVE YOUR WORLD

Pray for Missionaries

Did you know that **YOU** can be a missionary? Anyone who tells someone about Jesus is a missionary. However, sometimes people are called to serve others in another country either for a short trip or for a much longer period of time. You can pray for missionaries serving around the world.

One simple way is praying for a continent of the world each day of the week. As a family activity, learn more by researching about the people and countries around the world.



**Learn about the world as
you pray for missionaries.**





SERVE YOUR WORLD

Give a “Jesus Loves Me” Lamb to a Child

To encourage your family to serve each other while raising money for Operation Christmas Child®, consider this easy interactive challenge: Print out a picture of this lamb and post it on your refrigerator. You can print and cut one out for your entire family or one for each member of your family. Then, glue a cotton ball onto the lamb when simple acts of service are completed. Each covered lamb can represent a donation of \$5.

Through your gift, Focus on the Family will donate a musical plush lamb to put inside Operation Christmas Child® shoeboxes that will be sent to children around the world. These lambs, along with many practical items in the box, create a wonderful opportunity for a precious little boy or girl to learn about the love of Jesus Christ and His gift of eternal life!

- ▶ Help us shepherd more kids to Christ by making your \$5 donation at whitsend.org/lamb.



- ▶ You can find more “serve your world” ideas at whitsend.org/acts.

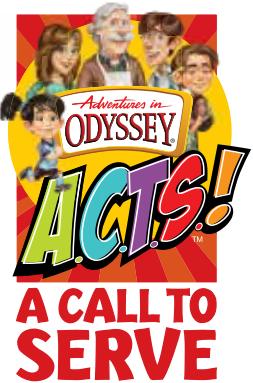


SERVE YOUR WORLD

A.C.T.S.!—A Call To Serve!

Read about two girls truly making a **BIG** difference in the world around them and living out Biblical Citizenship!

► Visit citizenlink.com/?p=39788.



This summer of service is BIGGER THAN EVER!

Do you want to play a part in God's great plan for helping others? Join Adventures in Odyssey® and kids just like you in making an impact on the world through acts of service. Find a need, make a plan and begin making a difference today! Then, share what you did with Adventures in Odyssey for a chance to win great prizes!

HERE'S HOW IT WORKS:

- Serve** your family, your community and even your world
- Share** about your service in an online video
- Submit** your video to Whitsend.org/ACTS

Serve. Share. WIN.

Shona, 2012
Grand-Prize Winner!



Check out this **GRAND PRIZE!**

BE FEATURED:

- *in the bonus material on Album 58*
- *in Adventures in Odyssey podcasts*
- *in Focus on the Family Clubhouse® magazine, the official magazine of Adventures in Odyssey*
- *as an Adventures in Odyssey ambassador*

Our grand-prize winners will also be our guests on a Good Goers Mission-Based Adventure Trip.

This year, two
grand-prize
winners will
be chosen!

For more inspiration or contest details, visit whitsend.org/acts.



SERVE YOUR WORLD



Join the Odyssey Adventure Club™!

All the fun and excitement of Adventures in Odyssey now comes together with real-world discipleship in an amazing new club. As a club member, you'll join Whit, Connie and the gang at Whit's End as they learn what it means to follow Jesus. You'll see how faith gets turned into action—from downtown Odyssey to remote places around the world.

Check this out: You'll have access to exclusive stories, a special website, discounts on lots of fun stuff and online streaming of **ALL** the Adventures in Odyssey episodes you want to hear 24/7! It's inspiration and discipleship on-the-go!

Servant Saying Puzzle/Code Activity Answer (Page 8)

"Consider the rights of others before your own feelings,
and the feelings of others before your own rights."

**Thank you for joining us
for a summer of service!**

