

Serving God Incognito

foot-washing ideas

When Jesus wrapped a towel around himself and began to wash his disciple's feet, he forever changed our understanding of service to others. So encourage your kids to...

- ◆ Give up something for someone today—a seat, a place in line, a bigger piece of pie.
- ◆ Bake a big plate of cookies, attach an anonymous note of appreciation,

and leave the plate at the front desk of the police or fire department for people working the overnight shift.

- ◆ Baby-sit for free. Mail

(John 13:1-17)

back the payment with an anonymous note. Plus, while there, do more than just baby-sit. Do the dishes, clean up the house, or wash the windows.

meeting unspoken-needs ideas

When Jesus appeared to his disciples on the beach following his resurrection, he cooked breakfast for them because he knew they'd be hungry after fishing all night. So encourage your kids to...

- ◆ Go through the church parking lot washing all of the car windshields during the morning service.
- ◆ Leave more than a tip when they eat out—add a note of appreciation for the

waiter or waitress.

- ◆ Find out the dates of their teachers' birthdays and send them anonymous happy birthday cards.
- ◆ Walk through the seating area in the sanctuary

(John 21:1-14)

after a church service straightening worship materials and picking up trash.

- ◆ Give someone who needs encouragement an anonymous note—sign it "Servant of the Lord."

good-neighbor ideas

In the parable of the good Samaritan, Jesus redefined what it means to be a good neighbor. So encourage your kids to...

- ◆ Do chores for their

neighbors when they're not at home—rake their leaves, shovel snow off their driveways, or mow their lawns.

- ◆ Go through the neighborhood early one morning

making sure newspapers are on doorsteps instead of on driveways or lawns.

- ◆ Move neighbors' garbage cans out of the street after trash pickup and

(Luke 10:29-37)

put them back where they belong.

- ◆ Buy grocery staples when a neighborhood family has a baby and leave the bag on their doorstep.

home improvement ideas

Even on the cross, Jesus gave to his mom. He asked his most trusted disciple to take care of her. So encourage your kids to...

- ◆ Polish their dad's shoes

or their mom's silver.

- ◆ Secretly do a project their parents planned to do—before they get a chance to start on it.
- ◆ Clean out the refrigerator late at night.

tor late at night.

- ◆ Sneak in and make all the beds while the rest of the family is eating breakfast.
- ◆ Put a treat on family members' pillows before

(John 19:25-27)

they go to bed at night.

- ◆ Do someone else's chore or task before they can do it.

prayer ideas

When Jesus prayed, he often withdrew from people to a quiet, secret place. Of all the ways kids can do secret service, prayer is the best. It's the one act of

Christian service Jesus explicitly told us to keep secret. So encourage your kids to...

- ◆ Pray for classmates they pass in school hallways.

◆ Pray for family members by going to each empty bedroom in their home.

- ◆ Dedicate one day to praying for every person

(Matthew 6:5-6; 14:22-23)

they meet.

- ◆ Use the school yearbook in their quiet time to pray for each classmate over the course of a year.

community impact ideas

When Jesus decided to talk with the Samaritan woman at the well, he impacted an entire community. So encourage your kids to...

- ◆ Stay after a sporting event and help clean up the trash in the bleachers.
- ◆ Straighten up the youth room, Sunday school

classroom, or church sanctuary before anyone arrives.

- ◆ Go to a grocery store parking lot and return carts

(John 4:5-42)

to the front of the store.

- ◆ Pick up and dispose of trash everywhere they see it for one day. ■

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