

Developing Children With Servant Hearts

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Children, and some adults, are naturally self-centered. They naturally concern themselves with themselves and have little concern for others. It is this “natural” tendency that God speaks against throughout scripture. It is this self-centered ego that Jesus died for, and the Holy Spirit continues to rebuke and “battle” with in our world today. We must do all we can to develop children with a heart for others.

Awareness of the needs of others can only be “taught” through a consistent, planned process of gradual “tastings” of the deeply pleasing joy of serving others. This process is similar to “acquiring” a taste for new foods. At first, the taste may be so unusual that it is not desired; but, after a few meals, the flavor is appreciated and valued. For some children, the new experience of serving others may be like tasting brownies for the first time. They may instantly enjoy it and want more!



This plan must include passionate role-models who show the children how to sacrifice for others. The plan must also include many opportunities for the children to become personally involved in service, rather than simply sitting and watching videos of others serving. The plan must include gradual advancements in service; from the simple, to the complex.

To involve the entire family in the process of developing children with servant hearts is essential. At first, parents may be hesitant to involve themselves, but when they see the impact that simple acts of service have on their children, they will gladly volunteer and become involved. To offer suggestions for service or outreach projects that the entire family can engage in will assist the parents in developing their own children in the area of servant evangelism or missions.

Typical Responses To Service Experiences

"This was fun! Can we do it again?"

Brett, age 7

"It feels so good to make other people happy!"

Selena, age 16

"I'm a new person! I'm so tired of being so self-centered. This experience has shown me that helping others is really the best thing I can do for myself. I love it!"

Damon, age 22

"This makes me feel like my life is making a difference! I know God is pleased with what I've done."

Carolyn, age 53



"We can do no great things, only small things with great love."

Mother Teresa

The Biblical Value of Service

The example of Jesus	Luke 22: 26, 27; Philippians 2: 3-8
"Great" people are servants	Matthew 23: 11
Giving will be rewarded	Matthew 10: 42; Luke 6: 38
Do good when you can	Proverbs 3: 27, 28
True "religion" serves others	James 1: 27

Summary: Those who desire to follow Jesus and become like Him cannot truly do so without sacrificially caring for the needs of others.

How To Cultivate a Servant's Heart

1. Being "raised" by people who value / love service to others (parents, teachers, etc.).
2. Given plenty of encouragement and focused compliments when sacrificial choices are made.
3. Being inspired by people with intimate relationships with God.
4. Being taught the value of others and God's desire for humble compassion.
5. Given plenty of opportunities to "taste" the deep joy of service.
6. Given increasingly challenging opportunities of service.
7. Given opportunities to serve alongside others.
8. Being encouraged to lead others as they develop a servant's heart.

An "Acts 1:8" Service Plan

"...And you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the outermost parts of the world." - Acts 1: 8

