

## Serving Families Serving Together

*...as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord. Joshua 24:15*

With this milestone we choose to be intentional about guiding our children to fully know and deeply understand the servant heart of Christ. Sound a bit counter-cultural? Our children are growing up in a “what’s in it for me?” society. We are living at a time when our children could have the tendency to believe the world rotates around them. Life can be busy for these young ones, filled with activities that strengthen their bodies, develop their minds, and enrich their relationships with friends, all of which is wonderful. In the midst of all these blessings we encourage you to be bold as you infuse mission-minded priorities into the forefront of your family life.

Spend time as a family looking over the year and weave in opportunities that have a focus on serving others in our church, in our community, and around the world as we seek to be the hands and feet of Christ to others. Schedule these experiences so they don’t get shoved aside.

Examples of various serving opportunities through Third Church:

Arabic Tutoring - On Wednesday nights tutor a child from the Arabic community (10 weeks in the fall and 10 in the spring)

CARITAS - Serve a meal to the homeless who call Third home for a week in the winter.

CHAT - Spend time reading with and tutoring children through Church Hill Activities and Tutoring (CHAT).

Missionaries - Adopt one of Third's mission partners and pray for them as a family. Send them notes of encouragement.

Backpack Collections - Contribute school supplies to local children; donations collected at Third in August.

Sunday School Youth Helper - At the age of 12, children are welcome to occasionally serve in the nursery or in an elementary aged classroom during the 8:45am and 11:15am services on Sunday mornings.

VBS - Make a contribution to a greater good by giving money toward a mission in need of support.

Spontaneous serving – Prepare a meal for a member of the congregation who is ill or in need, offer to rake leaves for a widow in the congregation, ask your child what areas of need he/she observes within the body of believers and encourage him/her to suggest a way to meet that need through the act of serving.

Serving others helps our children to encourage each other to do what God's Word teaches; experience a joy-filled, transformed heart through the act of serving others, learn to work together and accept responsibility to complete a task, and recognize that God's Word leads His people to action.

**Resources:**

*101 Simple Service Projects Kids Can Do: Creative Ways to Touch Families, Communities and the World* by Susan L. Lingo (Standard Publishing)  
*The Mission Minded Family: Releasing Your Family to God's Destiny* by Ann Dunagan (Authentic)