

10 Pro Tips: Raising Kids Who Serve Like Jesus

- 1. Make Serving a Family Rhythm**
Set a recurring time — weekly or monthly — for a family service project (e.g., pack food bags, write cards to shut-ins, clean up a park). Predictability builds habit.
- 2. Let Kids Take the Lead**
Invite children to choose who or how the family serves. Empower them to brainstorm ideas and make simple plans — this teaches agency and compassion.
- 3. Connect Service to Scripture**
Before and after each act of service, read a short Bible verse together (e.g., Mark 10:45, Philippians 2:3-4) and talk about how it applies.
- 4. Celebrate Quiet Giving**
Teach kids the joy of anonymous giving — leave a surprise treat on a neighbor's porch or drop off diapers at a shelter without taking credit.
- 5. Normalize Inconvenience**
Say out loud: “This may not be easy, but that’s part of loving like Jesus.” Help them see sacrifice as beautiful, not burdensome.
- 6. Turn Chores into Service**
Reframe household responsibilities as ways we care for each other. “We do dishes so someone else doesn’t have to” = service starts at home.
- 7. Reflect with Open-Ended Questions**
After serving, ask: “How did that make you feel?” “What do you think God wants us to notice?” “Would you want to do that again?”
- 8. Model Unseen Acts of Kindness**
Let your kids “catch” you serving without announcement — picking up trash, calling someone lonely, praying for someone silently.
- 9. Honor the One Being Served**
Teach kids to look others in the eye, learn names, and listen to stories. Selfless service is about dignity, not just deeds.
- 10. Create a “Service Scrapbook”**
Capture photos, drawings, or reflections about each act of service. Watch the heart of Christ take root and grow in your family story.

10 Bible Verses About Serving Others (NirV – Kid-Friendly Language)

1. **Mark 10:45 (NirV)**
“The Son of Man did not come to be served. Instead, he came to serve others.”
2. **Galatians 5:13 (NirV)**
“Serve one another in love.”
3. **Philippians 2:4 (NirV)**
“None of you should look out just for your own good. You should also look out for the good of others.”
4. **1 Peter 4:10 (NirV)**
“God’s gifts of grace come in many forms. Each of you has received a gift in order to serve others.”
5. **John 13:14 (NirV)**
“I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet. So you also should wash one another’s feet.”
6. **Matthew 5:16 (NirV)**
“Let your light shine so others can see it. Then they will see the good things you do. And they will bring glory to your Father who is in heaven.”
7. **Proverbs 11:25 (NirV)**
“Anyone who gives a lot will succeed. Anyone who renews others will be renewed.”
8. **Romans 12:13 (NirV)**
“Share with the Lord’s people who are in need. Welcome others into your homes.”
9. **Hebrews 13:16 (NirV)**
“Don’t forget to do good. Don’t forget to share with others. God is pleased with those kinds of offerings.”
10. **Ecclesiastes 4:9 (NirV)**
“Two people are better than one. They can help each other in everything they do.”