



ABIDEROOTED

Serve Together: A Family Service Guide

Six Family Service Modules for Growing in Grace-Fueled Service



FAMILY · SERVICE CHALLENGE · FREE RESOURCE

Using this guide

Read the full Scripture passage before the reflection. Choose one practical response, then pray in your own words. Work at a sustainable pace; days and sessions may be repeated. People may pass on a group question.

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Scripture quotations use the King James Version (KJV). Short quotations may be excerpts; read the cited passage in context. Prayer starters and reflections are devotional writing, not additional Scripture.

Reviewed edition | October 2026 | AbideRooted

Begin Here

Serve Together: A Family Service Guide is a six-module resource designed to help families grow in serving others from a foundation of grace. Each module includes Scripture, teaching, a practical service activity, reflection questions, and a prayer. Topics include serving from grace, with humility, with love, with joy, in weakness, and as a lifestyle. The resource emphasizes that service flows from God's grace in Christ, not from performance, and encourages families to serve together in practical ways.

Welcome to Serve Together! This guide is designed for your family to grow in serving others - not out of duty or to earn God's favor, but as a joyful response to the grace you've already received in Christ. Jesus said, 'For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many' (Mark 10:45). He served us perfectly, even to the point of death, so that we might live. Now, as His followers, we get to serve others out of that same love. Each of the six modules includes Scripture, teaching, a simple service activity, reflection questions, and a prayer. You can do one module per week or spread them out as fits your family. The goal is not to check boxes but to let God shape your hearts together. As you serve, remember: you are already loved and accepted in Christ. Your service flows from that secure identity. Let's begin this journey of serving together, trusting that God will

work in and through you.

TEACHING

Serving from Grace

Ephesians 2:8-10

“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.”

Before we serve, we need to understand why we serve. Paul tells us that we are saved by grace through faith - it's a gift, not something we earn. We can't do anything to make God love us more or less. But here's the amazing part: after we receive this gift, God creates us anew in Christ Jesus for good works. These good works aren't the cause of our salvation; they're the result. They're like fruit that grows from a healthy tree. When we serve, we're not trying to pay God back or prove ourselves. Instead, we're responding to His love. Think of it like this: when someone gives you a wonderful gift, you naturally want to show gratitude. Serving others is our way of saying thank you to God. It's also how we become more like Jesus, who came to serve, not to be served. As a family, talk about what grace means. It's unearned favor. You don't have to be perfect to serve; you serve because you're already accepted. This frees you from worry and comparison. You can serve with joy, knowing that God is pleased with you not because

of what you do, but because of what Christ has done.

Put It Into Practice

Family Discussion and

Prayer Walk: Sit together and share one way you've experienced grace this week. Then, take a short walk around your neighborhood. As you walk, pray silently or aloud, asking God to show you one need you can serve this month. Write down any ideas that come to mind.

Reflect & Talk Together

1. How does knowing you're saved by grace change the way you think about serving?
2. What is one way you've seen grace in action in your family?
3. What need did you notice during your walk that your family could serve?

Prayer

Dear God, thank You for Your amazing grace. Help us to understand that we don't have to earn Your love. Thank You that we are created in Christ Jesus for good works. Show us how to serve others from a heart of gratitude. Open our eyes to needs around us. In Jesus' name, Amen.

TEACHING

Serving with Humility

Philippians 2:3-8

“Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others. Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.”

Serving others requires humility. Paul encourages us to consider others more important than ourselves. That doesn't mean we think less of ourselves; it means we think of ourselves less. Jesus is our ultimate example. He is God, but He didn't cling to His rights. Instead, He emptied Himself and became a servant. He washed His disciples' feet, healed the sick, and ultimately gave His life. True humility isn't about putting ourselves down; it's about lifting others up. In our families, we have daily opportunities to serve with humility. It might mean letting a sibling choose the movie, helping with chores without being asked, or listening when someone is upset. When we serve humbly, we're not looking for applause or recognition.

We serve quietly, knowing that God sees. This kind of service builds strong families and points others to Jesus. As a family, you can practice humility by serving someone who can't repay you. That's what Jesus did for us. He served us when we couldn't do anything for Him. Let's follow His example.

Put It Into Practice

Secret Service: This week, each family member secretly does one kind act for another family member without being asked. It could be making their bed, writing an encouraging note, or doing their chore. At the end of the week, share what you did and how it felt to serve secretly.

Reflect & Talk Together

1. Why is it sometimes hard to put others first?
2. How did Jesus show humility in His life and death?
3. What is one way you can serve someone in your family this week without expecting anything in return?

Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank You for humbling Yourself for us. Teach us to have Your mindset. Help us to consider others more important than ourselves. Give us joy in serving quietly, without needing recognition. May our humble service reflect Your love. Amen.

Serving with Love

1 Corinthians 13:1-7

"Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal. And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing. And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing. Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things."

Paul writes that we can do amazing things - even give everything we have - but if we don't have love, it's worthless. Love is the heart of service. Without love, our service is just noise. But what does love look like? Paul gives us a beautiful description. Love is patient and kind. It doesn't envy or boast. It's not proud or rude. It doesn't insist on its own way. It's not irritable or resentful. It rejoices in truth. Love bears, believes, hopes, and endures all things. This kind of love isn't natural for us; it comes from God, because God is

love. When we serve, we need to check our motives. Are we serving to get something in return? Are we serving grudgingly? Or are we serving with genuine care for the other person? As a family, you can grow in love by serving together. When you serve a neighbor or someone in need, do it with kindness and patience. Talk about how you can show love in your service. Remember, Jesus served us with the ultimate love - He gave His life. Now we can serve others because He first loved us.

Put It Into Practice

Love in Action: Choose a service project together, such as baking cookies for a neighbor, making cards for nursing home residents, or raking leaves for an elderly person. As you serve, focus on doing it with kindness and patience. Afterward, discuss how you showed love.

Reflect & Talk Together

1. What is one way you can show patience when serving others?
2. Why is love more important than the task itself?
3. How does knowing that God loves you help you serve others with love?

Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank You for loving us so much. Fill our hearts with Your love so that we can serve others genuinely. Help us to be patient and kind, not proud or selfish. May our service be an expression of Your love. In Jesus' name, Amen.

TEACHING

Serving with Joy

Psalm 100:2

“Serve the LORD with gladness: come before his presence with singing.”

Serving God should be a joyful experience. The psalmist encourages us to serve the Lord with gladness. But sometimes we lose our joy. We get tired, or we feel unappreciated. We might start serving out of obligation or guilt. That's when we need to remember the gospel. We are serving the God who saved us, who loves us, and who has given us everything. When we focus on His goodness, joy naturally follows. Think about the things that bring you joy: playing with friends, eating a favorite meal, or receiving a gift. God wants us to have that same joy when we serve Him. How can we cultivate joy in serving? First, remember that we are serving Jesus, not people. Even when others don't notice, He does. Second, serve with your strengths and interests. If you love music, serve through singing. If you love animals, serve by caring for pets. If you love helping, find ways to help. Third, serve together as a family. There's joy in doing things together. When you serve with gladness, it's a witness to others. They see that serving isn't a burden but a delight. Let's ask God to restore the joy of our salvation so that we can serve Him with cheerful hearts.

Put It Into Practice

Joyful Service Project: Plan a service activity that your family enjoys. It could be singing at a nursing home, making a meal for a new mom, or cleaning up a park. As you serve, play worship music or sing songs. Focus on the joy of serving the Lord together.

Reflect & Talk Together

1. What makes you feel joyful when you serve?
2. How can you remind yourself that you are serving Jesus when you serve others?
3. What is one way your family can serve with gladness this week?

Prayer

Lord, thank You for the joy of serving You. Forgive us when we serve with grumbling. Fill us with Your joy so that we can serve You with gladness. Help us to find delight in helping others. May our joyful service bring glory to You. Amen.

Serving in Weakness

2 Corinthians 12:9-10

“And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.”

Sometimes we think we need to be strong, talented, or perfect to serve. But God often uses our weaknesses to show His power. Paul had a thorn in his flesh, something that bothered him. He asked God to remove it, but God said, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.' Paul learned to boast in his weaknesses because that's when Christ's power rested on him. As a family, you might feel inadequate. Maybe you don't have much money, time, or energy. Maybe you have a family member with a disability or a chronic illness. But God can use you right where you are. In fact, your weakness can be a channel for God's strength. When you serve despite your limitations, people see that it's God working through you. You don't have to be superhuman. You just need to be available. God can take your small offering - like the boy with five loaves and two fish - and multiply it. So don't be discouraged

by what you lack. Instead, rely on God's strength. Pray together, asking God to work through your weaknesses. He will give you the strength you need for each act of service.

Put It Into Practice

Serve in Weakness: Identify a need that seems too big for your family, such as helping a struggling friend or supporting a missionary. Pray about it together. Then, do one small thing to help, trusting God to multiply your efforts. Share how you saw God's strength in your weakness.

Reflect & Talk Together

1. What is one area where you feel weak or inadequate?
2. How can God's power be shown through your weakness?
3. What small step can your family take to serve in an area that seems too big?

Prayer

Father, thank You that Your grace is sufficient for us. Help us to rely on Your strength, not our own. When we feel weak, remind us that Your power is made perfect in weakness. Use our limitations to show Your glory. Give us courage to serve even when we feel inadequate. In Jesus' name, Amen.

TEACHING

Serving as a Lifestyle

Galatians 5:13

“For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another.”

Serving isn't just an occasional activity; it's a lifestyle. Paul reminds us that we are called to freedom in Christ. But we shouldn't use that freedom to please ourselves. Instead, we should use it to serve one another in love. This means that every day, we look for opportunities to serve. It could be as simple as greeting a new neighbor, sharing a snack with a classmate, or helping with chores at home. When we make service a habit, it becomes part of who we are. It's like training for a sport - you practice until it becomes natural. As a family, you can create rhythms of service. Maybe you have a regular night each month to serve together. Or you might adopt a grandparent in your church to visit. The key is to be intentional. Talk about how you can serve each other and your community regularly. Remember, you are free in Christ - free from the need to earn salvation, free from the fear of failure. Use that freedom to love and serve others. When you serve as a lifestyle, you reflect Jesus, who came not to be served but to serve. Let's commit to serving together, not just for a season, but as a way of life.

Put It Into Practice

Create a Family Service Plan: Sit down together and brainstorm a list of service ideas. Choose one or two that you can do regularly, such as monthly volunteering at a food bank or weekly helping a neighbor. Write them down and put the plan where you can see it. Commit to following through for the next month.

Reflect & Talk Together

1. What does it mean to serve as a lifestyle, not just an event?
2. What is one regular service activity your family can commit to?
3. How can you remind each other to serve in love every day?

Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank You for setting us free. Help us to use our freedom to serve one another in love. Make service a natural part of our family life. Give us creativity to find ways to serve regularly. May our lives be marked by love and service, just as Yours was. Amen.

Continue Abiding

As you finish this guide, remember that serving is not about earning God's favor - it's about responding to His grace. Jesus served you by giving His life as a ransom. Now, because you are secure in Him, you are free to serve others without fear or pride. Let the love of Christ compel you to serve with humility, joy, and love, even in your weakness. Make service a lifestyle, not just a project. And as you serve together as a family, may you grow closer to each other and to God. Trust that He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion. Go now, and serve in the grace and strength of Jesus Christ.