

Mark your calendar: Sunday October 28 – Wear your costume to church!  
And then stay for the Halloween Party after service.

It has been suggested that the reason that Jesus told us that we ought to serve the poor and the downtrodden, the lame and the blind, is really to help break down barriers between “them” and “us.” When we serve with love and compassion, those whom we serve become brothers and sisters, not the “others”. Children are often eager to be helpers and show us their independence. But the act of servicing others does much more than just help children feel capable. It helps expand awareness beyond his or herself as an individual. It helps them to learn that when we serve, we are helping to do God’s work here on earth. We are literally serving the highest good, and expanding our heart’s ability to love and be open to all.

We are going to talk about 5 ways of serving.

- 1) sharing possessions with others (food, clothing, shelter, toys) (with parent’s permission)
- 2) taking action for others (shopping, cleaning, walking a dog, caring for the sick)
- 3) uplifting others (kind words, sympathy during hard times, sending a letter/card)
- 4) praying for others
- 5) learning (studying the teachings of Jesus, trying your best at school, listening to advice)

Last week, when we were talking about how to be connected to our neighbors the children were quick to talk about buying them things. Our focus in class is ways the kids can help all on their own – smiling and saying hi to someone, picking up a piece of trash, making a card. Our goal is to empower the children to realize they can make a huge difference without needing to spend their parent’s money. We will be continuing this theme as we discuss how we can be of service to others.

Story: BUSY FRIENDS

Megan had moved to a new town and was trying to like it, but she didn’t. There was nothing to do, and she didn’t have any friends. School wouldn’t start for a few weeks, and Megan’s parents were busy with their new jobs. Megan also missed her brother, who was away at college. Every day was long and boring. Today was Monday, and her parents were meeting with someone. Their daughter, Kylie, was coming too. Megan was glad there would be someone else to hang around with.

The first thing Kylie said to Megan was, “Do you think your parents will let you come to the community rummage sale? We’ll have fun!” After her parents dropped them off, Megan discovered that Kylie didn’t invite her to go shopping at the sale—they were supposed to work. Everything was a mess, and Megan didn’t know what to do. But Kylie showed her how to sort things out and put up tables. They emptied the trash, collected bags for customers, put up signs. Megan thought Kylie’s idea of fun was a little weird. When Megan and her parents took a walk that evening, two neighbors she met at the rummage sale waved to her.

On Tuesday, Megan was excited to go play at Kylie’s house. But Kylie immediately gave Megan a pair of garden gloves and said, “We get to go pull weeds at my piano teacher’s house—it’ll be fun!” Megan couldn’t believe Kylie thought weeds were fun. Kylie explained that she always

helped out in exchange for her piano lessons. They filled two buckets with weeds, and they laughed at a cat that followed them among the flowers. That evening, Megan's mom said the piano teacher had called and offered to give Megan lessons if she wanted to keep helping in the garden.

On Wednesday, Megan helped Kylie walk dogs for a friend who had a broken leg. They met three kids at the dog park who would be going to their school. On Thursday, Kylie's mom showed them how to make sugar cookies, and they gave some to the mail carrier and sent some to Megan's brother at college. After, Kylie said it would be fun to surprise her mom and clean the kitchen.

When Kylie called on Friday and asked if Megan wanted to go to the school playground, Megan was curious. "What? You just want to play — no work involved?" Kylie laughed and said, "Well, there is a service party planned to clean up the playground before school starts — it'll be fun!" Later, after spreading the bark chips, picking up trash, and painting the fence, Megan and Kylie went on the swings. As they were swinging, Kylie said, "You seem happier than when I first met you, Megan." Megan admitted, "I thought you were weird because you thought work was fun. But now I have friends all over town, I'm going to have piano lessons, and my brother loves my cookies. It doesn't seem like work anymore — helping just seems fun."