



# SERVICE + MISSION

*2017 Children's Sabbath*



# STEP OUT

Stepping out of your comfort zone can be hard, but this is what we are called to do. Paul reminds us in Galatians 5:13 to serve one another through love.

Service is counter cultural in a world obsessed with self and where what seems to matter most is money, power and self-exaltation. Service is not an event or a short term mission project, it should be what happens naturally in our everyday lives - a lifestyle. Serving and responding compassionately is successful when children are able to experience it with their families. *(Adapted from Verge Network)*.

This series of sermonettes explores the importance of serving in our homes, schools, churches and neighbourhood before moving to how we may shine our light through the sharing of faith in our community. The emphasis is on how children, young people and families can serve and share their faith together.

**As a church we challenge you to be brave... Help your kids and congregation discover meaningful ways to grow through Service and Mission.**






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# ABOUT SERVICE & MISSION

The Bible encourages us to live like Jesus – to live showing love, compassion, generosity, hospitality and tolerance. “Be devoted to one another in love.” *Romans 12:10.*

Service is counter cultural but as Shane Claiborne and Ivy Beckwith said “If we lose a generation of young people in the church, it won’t be because we didn’t entertain them, but because we didn’t dare do something meaningful with the gospel, in the light of the world that we live in.” *Children’s Ministry in the Way of Jesus.*

How can our church build **Service & Mission:**

-  Encourage children and families to build friendships with people living near them.
-  Provide opportunities and resources for families to serve others together - home; neighbourhood; church; world.
-  Provide occasions for children to respond with compassion and generosity.
-  Provide resources and a space for children to share their faith story.
-  Provide outreach opportunities with and for families.

# WAYS TO INCLUDE THE KIDS



## **Songs and Items:**

Throughout the programs you will find spaces for songs (congregational) and special items. If you have a children's singing group and musicians, great – if not, perhaps add children to the adult music team. Feel free to move aspects of the program around to work in your context.



## **Offering and Prayer:**

Specific ideas are included in some outlines. Try and include as many children as possible. They will really appreciate and grow from their opportunity to serve.



## **Prelude and Postlude Music:**

Most congregations will have children who are learning an instrument. This is a great opportunity to put together an item or a small band to play music before and after the service. This will need to be organised so that children have plenty of time to practice and become confident.

While the prelude music is happening you might like to show data projector pictures of the children in the church family (if these are not being used during the offering) – be sure to have the right permission in place. If a data projector can't be used then pictures the children have created could be displayed around the church.



### **Bulletin or poster:**

Our church bulletins are often factual and not very child friendly.

For this sabbath consider:

- Having a special children's sabbath cover designed for the day.
- Do you have older children in your congregation who are good at design? Is there a way that they could be mentored and given responsibility in the bulletin design process on a continual basis?
- Think about content. Is there a way to make it interactive for children?
- Could you include one of the "Just for Kids..." understanding our church inserts?
- *Available from <http://children.adventist.org.au/participation>*
- Is children's church something you can consider doing more than one sabbath a year?

# SERVICE + MISSION

## ORDER OF SERVICE

# ABOUT THE SERVICE

This worship service explores service and mission (sharing faith). It starts off exploring the importance of serving in the home, neighbourhood, church and world before moving to how we shine our lights through faith sharing. Its particular emphasis is on how children, young people and families can serve and share their faith together.

## Suggested Running Sheet/Program Guide

Please note, these are approximate times and assume an 11:00am start.

10:50	Prelude music
11:00	Welcome & Announcements
11:06	3 Congregational songs
11:15	Prayer*
11:17	Offering*
11:20	Scripture Reading
11:22	Object Lesson
11:27	Musical item
11:30	Interview/Sharing Time.
11:35	Reader's Theatre
11:40	Sermonette 1
11:45	Play/Dramatized Bible Story
11:50	Sermonette 2
11:55	Children's story
11:59	Sermonette 3 or 4
12:04	Final Song
12:06	Closing prayer
12:08	Postlude

# WELCOME

The following is a script that you might like to use for the welcome. You will need to script announcements according to your local needs. Adapt the welcome to fit the culture of your church community.

## Welcome script:

Have an adult (if possible a leader in the congregation) walk up looking confused, blinking and scratching his/her head. A child comes running up and taps him/her on the arm.

**Child:** (*Whispers loudly*) Hey, it's Sabbath today isn't it?

**Adult:** Yes (*glancing around*)

**Child:** Then why is nothing happening? Shouldn't the worship service have started by now?

**Adult:** Well yes, it should have...but it seems there is no-one here to serve. The sound man is here, fortunately, but there's no singers or musicians - I can't figure it out, they were all here at practice.

**Child:** Maybe their alarms didn't go off and they slept in? Maybe they just couldn't be bothered.

**Adult:** All of them?



**Child:** Maybe there was a power cut or something. Last time that happened we got to use candles and everything...

**Adult:** Yes...well...that's very interesting but you see, everyone else is here, their clocks worked and they're waiting to sing so we probably should just be...

*Child looks around in shock*

**Child:** Look – most of our church family is here

**Adult:** I see that, yes

**Child:** You've gotta do something! Are there any announcements?

**Adult:** As a matter of fact there are: (go through announcements if needed– perhaps with the child presenting some)

**Child:** *(Looks around)* Still no one playing music and singing.

**Adult:** Well yes, I can see that!

**Child:** Perhaps we should start the singing, see if anyone here can just play or something.

**Adult:** Perhaps there's a better option

*They both sit down on the step*

**Child:** I know, I could tell a joke!

**Adult:** I really don't think now is this the right time for...

**Child:** Knock, knock

Adult: Not now

Child: No, you are supposed to say who's there

Adult: *(Sigh)*. Who's there?

Child: Shirley

Adult: Shirley who?

Child: Shirley someone will come and use their gifts and lead us in worship!

*Singers and Musicians move up and take their mics etc.  
Adult looks relieved.*

Adult: Wow, what happened, why so late?

Singer: Uggghh - no one heard their alarms. Sorry.

Child: Told you so.




Adult: Well, we are so grateful you are here this morning. We are so blessed to have people willing to use the gifts God has given them to serve in our church community and help us as we worship God.

Child: Yes! We're glad you're here – welcome music and singing people. And welcome to everyone here. The bible says in Psalms 150; 'Praise the LORD! Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty heavens! Praise him for his mighty deeds; praise him according to his excellent greatness!'


**Adult:** So let us praise and worship God together this morning as our music team leads us. Thank you for your willingness to serve us and our Lord this morning.

**Child:** It is good to serve.

# OFFERING

-  Organise children to collect the offering together.
-  Use children for music during offering.
-  While offering is being collected show pictures of people serving around the church and in the community up on the screen.

On last slide: *"Each one of you should use whatever gifts you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of Gods' grace."* 1 Peter 4:10





-  Alternatively, show data projector pictures of the different kids/families in your church community.



# PRAYER

If possible include a family or people of various age groups in the prayer time.

## Prayer points to include:

-  Thank you for people in the congregation who are willing to serve.
-  Thanks and blessing for service organisations in the community.
-  For us to grow a heart for mission and that we connect with our neighbours, school friends and work colleagues.
-  The opportunity to give our tithes and offerings today. You give us so many gifts and it is our greatest privilege to share what we have with others.





HOLY BIBLE

KIN JAMU  
VERSION

7th Edition

Printed in  
the United States of America

ISAIAH 51:20 463

... of the ... and I will make my judgment to rest for a light of the ...



# SCRIPTURE READING

After the offering or prayer (depending on how you structure the program) is complete have the lights turned down and worship area blacked out as much as is possible. Five children come to the front with candles or torches (or have several children light candles depending on the environment of your church). Have them recite the following verses:

**Child 1:** "In Jesus was life, and the life was the light of men, The light that shines in the darkness." (John 1:4&5)

**Child 2:** "I am the light of the world; he who follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." (John 8:12)

**Child 3:** "I have come as light into the world, that whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness." (John 12:46)

**Child 4:** "Arise, shine; for your light has come." (Isaiah 60:1)


**Child 5:** "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in Heaven." (Matthew 5:16)

If possible have a child sing reflectively a verse of a song that talks about God's light, e.g. 'Here I Am to Worship' or 'Shine Jesus Shine'. Bring lights up carefully for Sermonette.

# OBJECT LESSON

## RIPPLES

### You will need:

-  A large clear plastic tub of water  
Items of various sizes i.e. dried beans, paper clip, rock, brick, hammer, pot etc.

### Say something like:

Today we are doing a science experiment. I've got a selection of things I collected from home. Do you think that any of these things are too small to create a ripple? **Have a few children share their thoughts.**

Let's start with the little things. Have the children drop in a few examples of little things. Ask them what they saw. Do the same for the medium and large items. **So what did we see?** A child should answer that the small things made little ripples and the big things made lots of big ripples.

Acts of kindness are like ripples. When we help someone we are serving God as well as serving others. Can you think of small acts of kindness you can do to help someone else?

- I can pick up my toys.
- I can say kind words to someone who is feeling sad.
- I can ask a lonely person to join in at school.

These are all little things but they make life nicer for someone else. When we are kind to people then often they will be kind to someone else. Your act of kindness and service will then encourage others to be kind and the kindness goes on and out just like a ripple. All ripples are important no matter how big

or small they are because, serving others is like serving Jesus. You are his hands and feet when you serve others.

### **What about the bigger ripples, what could they be?**

- I could help a sick neighbour by weeding their garden or mowing their lawn.
- I could offer to look after someone's pet when they go away.
- I could ask a new kid at school to come to my house to play.

Sometimes it's hard to know how big the ripples will be from something that we do. It might not seem too much to us however it can make a huge difference to someone else. For Jesus, giving water to the thirsty or visiting the lonely is important. **Ripples are made when we are generous and care about others.**

**A Generous spirit doesn't happen over night, it has to be practiced and developed as we learn to see the needs of others.** You can start today by making little ripples and who knows, maybe your little ripple will stretch out and inspire someone else to do something big right away. **Every little thing we do for another is important.**

We can start by making ripples at home. We can make ripples in our schools and churches and then make ripples that flow out to serve people in our community and world.

Mother Theresa who served lots of people in India said *"I alone cannot change the world, but I can cast a stone across the water to create many ripples."* Together as a church family we can be part of the bigger picture that impacts our local community and the world.

**Think about what ripples you can make today. Think about what ripples our entire church family could make if we served together.**



# INTERVIEW + SHARING TIME

This could be done interview style calling on people in various life situations, including a family, to explain why serving is important to them. For example you may choose to interview children or youth involved in the Global Youth and Children's day earlier in the year (March 2017). In some cases this may work best pre-recorded.

- \* Choose people who serve both in the church and the wider community. It could be people who help with lunch ministry or people who work on the sound system for church. It could also be people who volunteer at the hospital, help out at an animal shelter or do scripture in schools.
- \* Have them explain why serving is important to them.
- \* Make sure to check with the person before hand.
- \* Alternatively interview children in your church family. Have them briefly describe how they serve around the home. They might like to show pictures they have drawn of themselves serving.

# READERS THEATRE

Matthew 5:13-16; Isaiah 58:10.

**Child 1:** You are blessed

**Child 2:** When you have worked up a good appetite for God.

**Child 3:** His food and drink is the best meal you'll ever eat.

**Child 1:** You are blessed

**Child 2:** When you care.

**Child 3:** At the moment of being care-full you find yourselves cared for.

**Child 2:** You are here

**Child 1:** to be salt,

**Child 3:** the seasoning that brings out the God-flavours of this earth.

**Child 1:** If you are not salty, how will people taste godliness?

**Child 3:** You are here

**Child 2:** to be light,

**Child 1:** to shine godliness to those around you.

**Child 2:** Keep your house open and be generous with your lives.

**Child 3:** By opening up to others, you'll prompt people to open up to God.

**Child 1:** If you spend your time feeding the hungry and helping people in need then you will be like a light in the darkness that shines as the noonday sun to those around you.

**Child 2:** People will be drawn to you like a moth to a flame

**All:** and you will show them a picture of God



# RESPONSIVE READING

Get the children to read what is not bold from the front and the congregation to read pink sections together. Romans 12:9-21 RSV.

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good;  
Love one another with brotherly affection; outdo one another in  
showing honour.

**Never flag in zeal. Be aglow with the Spirit, serve the Lord.**

Rejoice in your hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer.

**Contribute to the needs of the saints, practice hospitality. Bless  
those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them.**

Rejoice in those who rejoice,  
Weep with those who weep.





Live in harmony with one another;  
Do not be haughty,  
But associate with the lowly; never be conceited.

**Repay no one evil for evil,  
But take thought for what is noble in the sight of all.  
If possible, so far as it depends upon you,  
Live peaceably with all.**

Beloved, never avenge yourselves,  
But leave it to the wrath of God;  
For it is written,  
"Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord."

**No, "if your enemy is hungry, feed him;  
If he is thirsty, give him drink; for by so doing  
You will heap burning coals upon his head."**

Do not be overcome by evil,  
But overcome evil with good.

# DRAMATISED BIBLE STORY 1

## Characters:



Narrator  
Lawyer  
Jesus  
Samaritan

## Actors: (non speaking)



Traveller  
Robbers (2 or 3)  
Priest  
Levite  
Samaritan  
Inn Keeper

## Props:



Bag for traveller  
Sticks/something to beat  
traveller  
Coins to give Inn keeper  
Bandages etc.  
A bottle to pour on wounds

Narrator: Then an expert on the law stood up to test Jesus, saying,

Lawyer: Teacher, what must I do to get life forever?"

Jesus: What is written in the law? What do you read there?

Lawyer: Love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul,  
all your strength, and all your mind. Also, love your neighbour  
as you love yourself.

Jesus: Your answer is right. Do this and you will live!

Narrator: But the man, wanting to show the importance of his question, said to Jesus,

Lawyer: And who is my neighbour?

Narrator: To answer this Jesus told a story.

Jesus: As a man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, some robbers attacked him. They tore off his clothes, beat him, and left him lying there, almost dead. It happened that a priest was going down that road. When he saw the man, he walked by on the other side. Next, a Levite came and after he went over and looked at the man, he walked by on the other side of the road. Then a Samaritan traveling down the road came to where the hurt man was. When he saw the man, he felt very sorry for him. The Samaritan went to the injured man poured olive oil and wine on his wounds, and bandaged them. Then he put the hurt man on his own donkey and took him to an inn where he cared for him. The next day, the Samaritan brought out two coins, gave them to the innkeeper, and said...

Samaritan: Take care of this man. If you spend more money on him, I will pay it back to you when I come again.

Jesus: Which one of these three men do you think was a neighbour to the man who was attacked by the robbers?

Lawyer: The one who showed him mercy.

Jesus: Then go and do what he did.

# DRAMATISED BIBLE

## STORY 2

My Bible Friends Book 5, Signs Publishing, 1971

This story could be acted out as the story is read or the pictures could be scanned in and shown on the data projector as the story is read. Or you could read the story and show the pictures from the book if it is available.

### Characters:



Little Maid  
Lady Naaman  
Captain Naaman  
The Prophet  
Soldiers  
Prophet's man

### Props:



An idol  
Blue material (water to dip under)  
Gifts for the prophet  
A broom or dishes for little maid to wash

### Script:

**Narrator:** Little Maid was far, far from home.  
She worked for Captain and Lady Naaman.  
She washed dishes. She ran errands.  
Little Maid did everything Captain and Lady Naaman asked her to do, except one thing.  
One thing Little Maid did not do.  
Captain and Lady Naaman prayed to an idol,  
An ugly stone idol.

The idol couldn't see. It couldn't hear.  
When Captain and Lady Naaman asked Little Maid to pray  
with them to the idol Little Maid said,

Little Maid: Oh no, I cannot pray to an idol. I pray to the God of heaven.  
He sees me. He hears me.

Narrator: One morning when Little Maid took Lady Naaman her  
breakfast, Lady Naaman was crying.

Little Maid: Why do you cry?

Lady Naaman: Captain Naaman is sick. He has leprosy spots. The doctors  
cannot make him well.

Little Maid: I know someone who can make Captain Naaman well. If he  
will go to the prophet at my home far, far away, the prophet  
will know what to do to make him well.

Narrator: Lady Naaman told Captain Naaman what Little Maid said.

Captain Naaman: I will go see the prophet and I will take him presents.

Narrator: Captain Naaman rode in his best chariot. He drove his fastest  
horses. Men on horseback rode along behind the chariot. At  
the turn of the road Captain Naaman waved good-bye to Lady  
Naaman. He waved good-bye to Little Maid.

The prophet saw Captain Naaman and his men coming down  
the road. He had heard about Captain Naaman's sickness. He  
sent a man to meet him and tell him what to do.

The Prophet: Tell Captain Naaman, to go wash in the River Jordan seven  
times, and he will be well.

Narrator: Captain Naaman said to his men.

Captain Naaman: Does the prophet think I am dirty? Does he think I need a bath? I will not wash in that muddy river!

Narrator: Captain Naaman was angry, very angry, because the prophet told him to go wash in the river.

Captain Naaman: I will go home!

Narrator: Captain Naaman started home. The men on horseback rode up close beside him. They said to him,

Solder: If the prophet had asked you to do some big thing, wouldn't you have done it? Why don't you do this little thing? Why don't you go wash in the river?"

Narrator: Captain Naaman drove slower. At last he turned off the road and drove down toward the river.

The river was muddy, but Captain Naaman waded out into it. He dipped down under the water. Then he looked at his hands and his arms. The leprosy spots were still there. Captain Naaman dipped under the water again, but the leprosy spots were still there. He dipped again. The spots were still there. His men on the riverbank watched anxiously, as he dipped again, and again, and again. But always the spots were there, and they were as large as ever. Captain Naaman dipped under the water the seventh and last time, and the spots...

The spots were GONE! Captain Naaman looked at his hand. He looked at his legs. He looked all over his body, but not a single spot could he find. The spots were all gone. He was

WELL! His men clapped their hands and cheered.

Captain Naaman ran splashing out of the river. He jumped into his chariot. He galloped his horses back to the prophet's house to tell him thank you. All of his men galloped along with him.

Captain Naaman bowed low before the prophet and thanked him. He offered him the presents he had brought. But the prophet said,

Prophet: I cannot take the presents. I did not make you well. It was the God in heaven who made you well.

Narrator: Captain Naaman and his men hurried home. Lady Naaman and Little Maid were watching the road. Captain Naaman waved to them. He drove faster. When he came near he shouted,

Captain Naaman: I am well! I am well!

Narrator: And now when Captain and Lady Naaman prayed, they didn't pray to the idol that couldn't see and couldn't hear. They prayed to the God in heaven, and Little Maid prayed with them.

Captain Naaman: Thank you, God in heaven. Thank you for making me well!

# DRAMATISED BIBLE STORY 3

My Bible Friends Book 5, Signs Publishing, 1971

This story could be acted out as the story is read or the pictures could be scanned in and shown on the data projector as the story is read. Or you could read the story and show the pictures from the book if it is available.

## Characters:



Jill  
Jane

## Props:



Chair, Voucher, Mirror,  
Desk, Cape, Chair,  
Computer

## Setting:



Scene is set up like a hairdresser. Jill is sitting in front of a computer staring at the screen looking bored.

## Script:

*Jane runs onto the stage and stands breathless in front of bored Jill on the computer.*

Jane: *(Gasping)* Oh I'm so sorry I'm late...

Jill holds up one finger without making eye contact. She continues to peck away bored at the keyboard a few more



times before leaning on her hand to look up at Jane.

Jill: *(Bored)* Yeah?

Jane: I'm sorry I'm late. I'm here for my appointment. I have a voucher *(waves paper)*. My mother bought me a cut and blow-wave, she said you did a wonderful job of her...

*Jill holds up her hand this time and pecks away at the keyboard again.*

Jill: Sorry, I'm too busy right now. Perhaps you can come back tomorrow or something.

Jane: *(Accusingly)* Tomorrow? But I took time off work especially to come. I can't come back tomorrow...

Jill: That's a shame. Maybe we can make a time for one day next week.

Jane: I can't come back next week. I have a conference on. Can't you just squeeze me in, I'm only 5 minutes late. It was the darn traffic...

Jill: Nope, you're late. Can't you see I'm very busy?

*Jill continues to peck away at the keyboard. Jane glances at her watch and taps her foot. Jill appears unfazed and continues to tap and ignore her.*

Jane: May I ask what you're doing?

Jill: I'm on Hay Day, I'm just collecting my eggs and feeding the cows.

Jane looks in disbelief around at the screen to confirm it.

Jane: When is your next appointment arriving?

Jill: *(Casually glances at her watch)* 5.00pm tomorrow.

Jane: *(Angry)* 5.00pm tomorrow! Then you have plenty of time to do my cut and blow-wave right now. 5.00pm tomorrow, good grief? What kind of service are you offering here? My mother said this salon was exceptional!

Jill: Well, the owner went on holiday yesterday. She asked me to keep the place open until she gets back. She didn't say anything about actually doing any haircuts.

Jane: I think that was probably kinda implied. This is a hair salon after all. It offers a hair cutting service, what is the point of a hair salon without any service?

Jill just shrugs and keeps pecking away at the keyboard

Jane: Can you even cut hair?

Jill: *(Rolls eyes)* well, yeah!

Jane: But you still won't do it?

*Jill ignores her and keeps pecking away*

Jane: This is ridiculous! I'll be asking for my mother's money back when the owner returns. I've never received such bad service in my life!

Jane marches off the stage

Jill:           *(Looks up from the keyboard)* Have a nice day and come again!

Voice over:    God has made us what we are. In Christ Jesus, God made us to do good works, which God planned in advance for us to live our lives doing. Ephesians 2:10 (NCV)

[End]



# SERMONETTE 1

## Shining Your Light:

- What does it mean to let your light shine before others? Jesus explains many times that letting your light shine includes serving others.
- In fact Jesus talks more about serving other people than any other topic.
- One of the reasons you were created was to serve God and humanity.
- Serving is all about putting others ahead of yourself.
- Jesus summed it up when He said that the first shall be last and the last first. These words sound a bit odd to us. We love to win and have things our way. We think 'me first' and that to be number one we have to get ahead or put others down. Jesus said: "Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many." Mark 10:43-45.

- The Bible says that Jesus 'emptied himself and took the form of a servant'. This was not because the task was so appealing, it was not, rather its because Jesus loved His children (you, me and everyone) so much.
- People matter to God and because they matter to Him they must matter to you and I as well. We are to serve others because Jesus served others and asks us to do the same.
- While we might be happy for a little while putting ourselves first, deep down happiness comes from putting other people ahead of ourselves. Just like Jesus puts you and me first – it's incredible to think the God of the Universe came to serve you and I – He asks us to do the same for others.
- How often do you let someone go first in a supermarket line when you're both heading for the same checkout at the same time? When was the last time you helped a neighbour in their yard for no reason? When was the last time you said "I would love to put the rubbish out", even when it's not your turn, or how do you think your mum would respond if you said "It would be my pleasure to do the vacuuming?" What about at school? "It would be my pleasure to help clean up the classroom."
- Jesus said that when we do these kinds of things people will see God reflected through us and glorify Him.
- Servants think more about others than about themselves.
- When you have a servant's heart people are more valuable than things.
- When we stop focusing on our own selfish needs we become aware of the needs around us.

- If serving is such a great thing then why isn't everyone eager to serve each other? What stops us serving?
- Simply, we just get too caught up with our own things and thinking about what we want. We think about our own stuff rather than what the world is like for someone else. This way of living can make us very selfish and blind to the needs of people around us.
- We rush past opportunities to be Jesus' hands. We do not have eyes that seek out the needs of people around us.
- Being a servant is about looking outside of our own needs to others, not for what they can give us or how they can help us get ahead but because, like us, they are also valuable to God. Like us, they are God's children.
- Some people don't serve because they think they may not be appreciated. Well sometimes you won't be appreciated, sometimes you might get taken for granted. However, Jesus tells us to keep on serving anyway.
- Remember that for Jesus a cup of water for a little child is a big deal.
- Maybe we can't be bothered serving – it's just too much hassle.
- Maybe we are selfish and want all the glory for ourselves.
- Maybe we are too busy thinking about ourselves.
- Maybe we don't care about other people and don't take the time to get to know them.
- Think about your heart right now and let's do a heart check. Is it a servant's heart? If not, then pray for God to open the eyes of your heart. Think about the people you know and then put their needs over yours.

- Sometimes people will take advantage of our servant's heart or be unappreciative, however Jesus says to serve anyway as through you they might see Him.
- For the most part however, what our world needs is someone willing to take the first step, humble themselves and serve. It can change homes, churches and communities.
- Paul says in Romans 12:1, "In view of what God has done for you, offer yourselves as a 'living sacrifice.' This is about dying to self and serving God. God wants to use you to make a difference in the world. He wants to work through you to serve others. **What's stopping you?**"





# SERMONETTE 2

## Shining In Your Home, Church, Neighbourhood and World:

This sermonette is designed for 4 people, each with one of the subsections (home, church, neighbourhood and world). Each could wear a T-shirt with the aspect they are talking about printed/sewn on the front.

### Speaker 1 - Home:

- Today we want you to think about what it means to serve God in your home, your church, your community and world.
- **Being a servant starts with the people you live with.** Your home is the perfect place to reflect God's light. Would your mum and dad, brothers and sisters, flatmates, husband/wife, children, and in-laws say that you have a servant's heart? Would they say you serve more than you want to be served? Even if you live by yourself, you are still called to serve your wider family and the people around you.
- The Apostle Paul said: "But anyone who won't care for his own relatives when they need help, especially those living in his own family, has no right to say he is a Christian and is worse than an unbeliever." Timothy 5:8.
- **Serving might mean** doing a chore before being nagged or even when it's not your responsibility. Placing encouraging notes or small gifts in places where they will be later found to brighten someone's day. Being appreciative of the things people do for you that over time we might just take for granted and even treat as our right. It might mean

being the person to change the toilet roll as opposed to leaving the last smallest piece. Get creative and think through ways you can be a light to the people who are closest to you.

- Children enjoy helping around the home doing chores and jobs that they are able to.
- A great way you can serve in your home is by having friends and neighbours over – and even more than that, having people over who are not even your friends yet. Jesus said that in caring for and offering hospitality to strangers we are really doing this for Him (Matthew 25:35). Hebrews 13:2 says that sometimes we might even be serving angels unaware. Because we live in a world that is ruined by sin, having strangers over to our house might not always be safe, so make sure you have some other people with you – kids, check with your parents or a grown up before you start inviting strangers home. Maybe you can start by looking after people in your street who you might not know very well yet. Jesus said: When you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous. Luke 14:13-14.
- **The whole idea is not so much about how much food you have but rather the attitude of your heart.** Solomon said “better a meal of vegetables where there is love than a fattened calf where there is hatred.” Proverbs 15:17.
- The gift of friendship is one of the greatest acts of service that we can offer and there is no shortage of people needing friends in our world. The thing is, as we offer friendship we gain more friends.
- **There are lots of ways to share God's love.** However, one of the best ways is getting to know the people around us and when the time is right letting them know what a difference God has made for us. We all need to do this however it is a powerful experience for a child to see his/her family serving and sharing with others.

- Don't wait for someone else to start serving – you start serving in your home from this moment on. Going all out to serve in the home can actually turn into a whole lot of fun.

### Speaker 2 - Church:

- What does it mean to serve in God's church? Another word for serving in the church is ministry. **You and I are all called to be ministers.**
- Every believer has been given unique passions, gifts and abilities that Jesus calls us to use in making the church more effective.
- When we combine our service together the church becomes a shining light in the community and shows the world how we can all work together.
- Each of us has a part to play and if we neglect that part or do not give it our best shot we are not just robbing each other, but robbing God and the impact of our church body. Ephesians 4:11-12 says that "It was He who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare Gods' people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up."
- Even more than this, Paul reminds us that **God gives us spiritual gifts.** Understanding spiritual gifts is very important for the church body. What is a spiritual gift you might ask? A spiritual gift is a special ability given to you by God, through the Holy Spirit, that makes the church a better church and brings glory to God. **This means God has designed each of us to do something special in the body of Christ 'the church'** (Ephesians 4, Romans 12).
- God created us to be good at different things, and no one is good at everything. This is how God wanted it to be so we would all need to work together if things are to work best. God made each of us to care about different things, be good at different things and be excited about different things.

- We all have a spiritual gift and **God has designed you in a special way to use your gift**. If you don't know your gift, or if you're not using it then the church misses out, you miss out and God misses out by not having the part happen that he made you for. If you don't know your gift then you need to find out. Talk to one of the Elders or Pastors about how you can get involved in ministry.
- **Every part of the body matters**. What happens when a part of your body decides not to do its job? The rest of the body suffers. What if your liver decided to start living for itself saying: 'I'm tired of what I do around here – I don't want to serve in this body any more – I want a year off to be fed – I've got to do what's best for me.' What would happen? Your body would die.
- All of us, from children right through to the oldest person can be a part of making our church a better place. Encouraging others, keeping things tidy, praying for each other. We can all do something that makes this church a loving, caring, community.
- If you're not involved in any serving in the church, what excuse have you been using? Abraham was old, Leah was unattractive, Joseph was abused by his brothers, Moses stuttered, Gideon was poor while David had all sorts of family problems. Jeremiah seems depressed, Jonah not at all keen and Zacchaeus was short and unpopular. The Bible includes a huge variety of what we might call 'misfits', but God used each one in His service. He will use you too, if you allow Him.

### **Speaker 3 - Neighbourhood:**

- Whenever you serve others in any way, you are actually serving God. (Colossians 3:23-24; Matthew 25:34-45). Serving in our neighbourhood is a very big deal for God. He gives us hearts to care about what He would care about. Hands to hold the people He wants us to hold, eyes to see the needs that break His heart and feet to go and make a difference.

- In Luke 10:25-37 Jesus tells the story that we have called the Good Samaritan (the story we saw in our drama). A man was traveling from Jerusalem to Jericho when he was robbed, beaten and left for dead. A Priest walked past but moved to the other side of the road. A Levite did the same. Both men were, by name, followers of God and that should have resulted in them seeing an opportunity for serving. However, selfishness overruled – they just wanted to get to where they were going they did not want to stop in case they got a little bit of blood on themselves. Next a Samaritan came past. The Samaritan's were shunned in society and out of the three people who passed by that day, the Samaritan would be expected to be the least likely to help. The Samaritan in fact bandages the wounds of the beaten man, puts him on his donkey, arranges accommodation and takes care of the man. Jesus ends the story with "Go and do likewise."
- The story of the Good Samaritan teaches us that **true love for God will show itself in us caring for the needs of others**. By using a Samaritan as the one who helped, Jesus makes the point that concern for others is not limited to background, race or religion. Being a true neighbour is about taking time to step out of your busy life and serve others – whoever they are.
- **You and I have the choice to stop or walk right by**. No one saw the Priest and Levite walk right by, however the God of the universe says He cares about every single time one of His children stops to help another.
- In order to serve the beaten stranger, the Samaritan had to step out of his own agenda. Serving in our community is about having eyes, ears and a heart that is focused outward. We need to serve beyond our homes and church and shine in our wider community. We are asked to step out of our comfortable lives and touch people's lives – for no other reason than, that, Jesus did.
- **God knows the hearts and needs of our community**. Ask Him to show those needs to you as you step out to serve. Maybe this means that

this week you will take the time to stop and talk with the unpopular or new kid at school or the lonely person at your work. Maybe it's time to drop some extra groceries to the family you know must be struggling. Maybe it's time to talk to the old lady who has lost her husband and spends most days alone. Maybe it's time to stop and talk to the beggar who pushes all they own in a shopping trolley – what would it take to provide a meal? Remember each one of these people is a child of God, like you, and someone who Jesus gave everything for. **He calls you and me to reach out and serve them.**

#### **Speaker 4 - World:**

- You only have to watch a few minutes of the news or pick up a paper to see that we live in a world of desperate need. Natural disasters seem to be happening all the time and it just becomes another news story. People are left without homes and food. While the Bible tells us that because of sin we are to expect these things, it also tells us that our job is not to just watch but actually to do something to help.
- Somewhere in our world a person dies of hunger every two seconds. This is not people dying in need of special medicine but just for the need of food – any food. **In the time we've been in our church service today over 1,800 people will have died simply from hunger.** Confronting isn't it!
- Right now in Bangladesh parents are waking with no breakfast for their kids and heading off to the rubbish tip to scavenge for what little food there is. Somewhere today a child will wake up to another day as a slave in a cocoa bean plantation working to supply our world with chocolate. UNICEF estimates that we have at least 27 million child slaves in our world right now.
- You and I are fortunate enough to live in a country where we have choices. Answer these questions.
  - Do you have more than one pair of shoes?
  - Do you have more than one choice about what you will eat for a meal?

- Do you have access to your own transport, even if it is a bike?
  - Do you have more than one pair of underwear?
- If you can answer yes to three of the above questions then by the world's standards you're very wealthy. Fewer than 10% of the world can answer yes to three of these questions. We say which shoes, what brand of food, which label of clothes while most of the world would never dream about the sights we see in our own pantry.
  - We can easily forget that this whole tragedy is happening on our planet at this very moment. If we feel anything at all, then it is a sense of being overwhelmed by the massive numbers. **We feel as though there is nothing we can really do. It is just too big.** The sight of desperate people who are suffering just becomes another advert on TV.
  - The Bible has more to say about looking after people than any other issue. In the Bible James 1:27 says: "Pure and lasting religion in the sight of God our Father means that we must care for orphans and widows in their troubles, and refuse to let the world pollute us".
  - But what can you do? Don't corrupt governments take the money you send and use it for weapons? Don't the leaders of the countries we see on TV in desperate need live in luxury? Sometimes, yes. **However there are things we can do.**
  - What would it take for you to give an encouraging smile and thank you to the person cleaning your tables at the mall – they might be desperately trying to make ends meet. Politeness costs nothing!
  - What would it take to arrange a food parcel for a family at church or in your area who find it hard to make ends meet?
  - **What would it take** to give money you don't even really need to ADRA? We can be thankful that we belong to a church that coordinates one of the world's leading humanitarian agencies. Sometimes we forget



the marvellous work ADRA is doing across the world, we take it for granted that this is someone else's job, that this is some government's responsibility. The Bible says it is our job, it is our responsibility to care for others.

- Maybe it's time to sponsor a child through an agency like Asian Aid. The money you give really can change a life. You might say but it's only one, however for Jesus even one is a big deal.
- What would it take to join a team that actually travels to another country and saves lives in desperate need?
- If you stop and think for a moment you will come up with all sorts of ways to make a difference for a person in need. By the way, many times all it takes is a simple thing, a simple selfless act. For Jesus it was water, clothing and a visit.
- It can start with a small act of kindness done in love. When you find yourself caring for others your heart will begin to fill until it's filled to the brim. The more you pour out and serve others the more God refills your heart with a sense of peace and love. You will be filled to overflowing.
- Take a look into the people's eyes around you. What can you do to encourage, care for and support God's children today? Chances are you'll pass someone today who needs you to be Jesus to them. As Mother Theresa used to say, "We're just pebbles being thrown into the sea and causing ripples." Let's make ripples that expand through the agony of the world to reach each single person for Jesus.





# SERMONETTE 3

## Children Can Serve:

- Everyone is called to serve and when I say everyone that means – everyone – even children.
- In fact it is very important that children serve as it is one of the important faith shaping experiences.
- In the story of the feeding of the 5000 (Matthew 14:13-21) it was a little boy who gave what he had. The disciple Andrew did not see much when a little boy showed him he had five loaves and two fish. However for Jesus what the little boy had was enough to be used by Him to accomplish His purpose.
- Jesus turned the little boy's ordinary lunch into something extraordinary. Serving is more about our attitude than what we have.
- Children can serve and with Gods' blessing make a huge impact.
- The Bible is full of examples of children who served:
  - Samuel served in the temple (1 Samuel 2:18).

- The little servant girl in the story of Naaman wasn't afraid to tell Naaman's wife about God's power (2 Kings 5:2-4).
  - Daniel was young – probably in his early teens when he decided to stand for God (Daniel 1:8).
  - Josiah the king of Judah served God when he was eight years old (2 Kings 22:1-2).
- **Serving makes children part of the church and gives them a sense of belonging.**
  - When children serve it also has a great influence on other children. They realise that this church is for children and not just a place their parents bring them to.
  - Being involved in service helps to build community and a sense of belonging. It also gives a feeling of satisfaction knowing that God has been working in and through you to bless someone else.
  - There are some remarkable stories of children who have been allowed to serve and been encouraged by adults.
  - Share an example you know or choose one from below:
  - **Examples:**  
**Connecting through Music** - Abigail Lupi Age 10, Stockholm, NJ  
 Lots of children like to put on shows. Few are as enterprising as Abigail. She performed her first musical revue three years ago at an assisted-living centre, in honour of her great-grandmother's 100th birthday. "That's when I discovered many of the elderly didn't have visitors," she says. Abigail figured she could remedy that by inviting friends to perform with her at assisted-living residences, nursing homes, and children's hospitals throughout the state. Today, CareGirlz, Abigail's ensemble of 13 girls ages 6 to 13, has a repertoire of more than 90 Broadway and pop songs, and they've performed in 20 different locales so far. "I like to brighten up people's days and help

them have a fun time,” says Abigail. “If I do my best, they’ll have a smile on their faces by the end.”

### Hugs for Haiti - Blare Gooch Age 13, Grand Rapids, MI

Two days after the devastating January 2010 earthquake in Haiti, Blare saw a little boy crying in a pile of rubble on a newscast. The story brought him to tears. The next day, still thinking about what he’d seen, Blare remembered the teddy bear that always comforted him. “Then I thought, ‘We could start a drive for Haiti,?’” says Blare. At school, his teachers let him announce his plan over the PA system and ask other kids to donate bears. Soon a local TV and radio station got wind, and, via Facebook, other schools joined in. The result? Blare’s Bears for Haiti gave 25,000 teddy bears to the island nation and about 22,000 more to non-profits. This year Blare’s group will collect toys and school supplies too. Blare’s advice to other kids is simple. “It doesn’t really matter how small or old you are,” he says. “If you’re young and think you can’t make a big difference in the world, well, you actually can.”

**Protecting Canine Cops** - Kayleigh Crimmins Age 8, Chesapeake, VA  
Kayleigh loved watching the police dogs train when she visited her police officer dad at work. So when the then 6-year-old saw photos of the dogs and noticed that only some wore bulletproof vests—at \$700 apiece, many departments can’t afford them—she decided to raise the money herself by selling some of her toys. A local businessman learned about her plan and donated enough money for her to buy her first vest, in 2009. Since then, Kayleigh’s organization, Kids for K9s, has raised enough money to buy five more. At the ripe old age of 8, Kayleigh says she plans to stick with her project “until I’m forty, probably.”

- **Serving creates bonds, serving gets people involved. The world is a little bit more like heaven when we all serve each other.**





# SERMONETTE 4

## Shining Through Sharing:

- Serving is a great way to shine a light into our communities.
- Another great way to shine Gods' light is through sharing our faith.
- Luke 15 tells us that Jesus is very concerned about lost people. These are people who are trapped in darkness and who need to see the light of His love. **You and I meet these people everyday - yet we forget they are lost.** Lost people are in our classrooms, playgrounds, workplaces and they even can be in our homes.
- When we realise how much **God cares about lost people it should make us care too.** People are Gods' treasure regardless of where they come from, how smart they are, or what church they do or don't belong to. Lost people matter to Him and therefore they'd better matter - really matter - to you and me.
- When you start to look at others with this kind of attitude, it changes the way you treat people. Jesus' stories in Luke 15 tell us you have never looked at anyone who wasn't incredibly valuable to God.

- There is more going on around this planet and your life than just going to school or work, hanging around with friends, getting the latest play station or whatever matters for you. **God calls you to be part of His mission.** In the battle for lost people God calls us to step up and make an impact for eternity.
- Once we are His, God uses us to reach others. The Bible says, “We have been sent to speak for Christ” 2 Corinthians 5:20. We are the messengers of God’s love and purpose to the world.
- Jesus calls us not only to come to Him, but to go for Him.
- He chooses to work through you in reaching lost people. He sends us into the world. John 20:21 says “As the father has sent me, I am sending you”. Telling others how they can have life with God forever is one of the greatest thing you can do for them.
- **God chooses ordinary people to share His light on this planet. To every believer He says, ‘You are My special agent; you are the person I need to reach a certain group of My children in a particular corner of My world’.**
- You might ask where do I start?
- **The first place to look is your family and friends.** These people are interested in your story, thoughts, feelings and background. Remember that often, before we talk about Christ, we need to earn the right by first being real friends. Maybe the first step for you this week is to build real friendships with the people God has put around you. Ellen White said that this is how Jesus worked. “Jesus mingled among men as one who desired their good. He won their confidence, met their needs, then He bade them Follow Me.” (Ministry of Healing, 143).
- Every person in the church, from children to the older people, everyone who has been around for a very long time, is called by God to be a missionary.



- All of us can be kind to the people we meet.
- All of us can listen to other people
- All of us can share what God means to us when we are asked.
- All of us can invite someone to join us at a church event.
- Each of us has to shine Gods' light into darkness in our own special way.
- Jesus said: "I have set you to be a light for the gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the uttermost parts of the earth." Acts 13:47. This means that all of us are to shine our lights to as many people as we possibly can.
- Peter reminds us to "be ready at all times to answer anyone who asks you to explain the hope you have in you, but do it with gentleness and respect." 1 Peter 3:15-16 (New Living Translation).
- Don't worry if you are a bit scared to talk about Jesus. It might be a bit scary at first but it is worth it. Jesus promises us the Holy Spirits' power. He said; "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." Acts 1:8.
- God calls you to shine His light through serving and sharing.
- Shining Gods' light into darkness will be the greatest adventure you'll ever have – and the results are eternal.

# PRAYER + GIFT

Dim the lights and have the children come out carrying four candles (or more if necessary). Each child is to keep one candle and pass the rest to a member of the congregation. In turn, each person keeps one candle and passes on the rest to another person until everyone has a candle each. While this is taking place play a song with a serving/light your world theme e.g. "Take Your Candle and Go Light Your World" by Kathy Troccoli.

## **Closing Prayer:**

Child or Children/Children's Ministry Leader/  
Pastor or Elder



# PLANNING NOTES

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**This resource was written as a collaboration between Brendan Pratt, Amanda Bews and Julie Weslake. Edited by Litiana Turner. Layout and design by Rebekah Rankin.**

Reach a Child  
Reach the World



Reach Up, Reach In, Reach Out



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