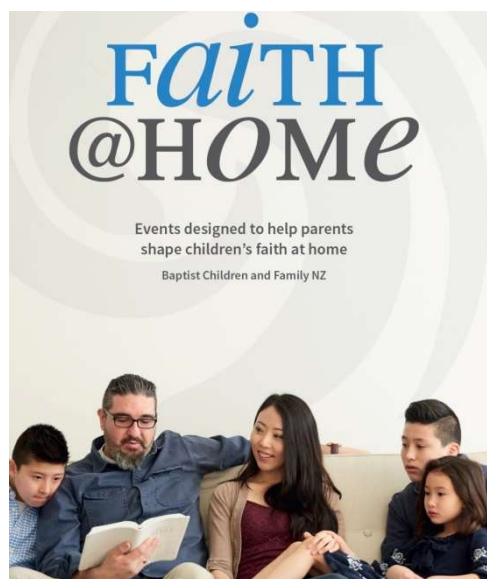


faith at home session on Service

Jan Ozanne, Otumoetai Baptist Church

Partnering with the home is one of our Baptist foundations for ministry and mission with children and families. A faith at home session is one example of how a faith community could partner with whānau to nurture faith in children.

Faith@Home sessions are parent-child interactive workshops where parents and the children come together and learn a new faith skill that they can continue developing at home. The sessions vary in length, based on the congregation's approach to youth and children. Each of these sessions is designed to be held during the Sunday morning worship time so that parents are not required to add an extra event into their week.



The purpose of each Faith@Home session is to:

- Inspire families to practice the faith skill at home through biblical teaching and personal testimony.
- Enable to families to experience the faith skill together as a family in an active learning manner.
- Equip families to continue practising the faith skill in their home by providing a resource that will enable and empower them to do so.

Congregations are all different, therefore the Faith@Home strategy you develop for your church will need to suit your context and your people.

For more information check out <https://www.baptistcfm.org.nz/faith-home>

Below is an example of a faith at home session at Otumoetai Baptist for primary school aged children and their caregivers.

faith at home session on Service

Welcome and morning tea – Discuss the following connect question while you have morning tea.

Connect Question: Who has served or helped you and your family this week? Who have you served or helped? Write or draw your answers on the cardboard people shapes on your tables, on the head and arms and legs.



Introduction – to faith at home (explain why we do these sessions)

Video from the Kitchen Table Project – how long do you spend?
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kUfCWqsgZdl&t=1s>

Parents have the greatest influence.

Introduction to today's topic: Service

Feedback on connect question. You hopefully have some people in front of you who serve you or who you serve. Ask people to share some examples?

What are some of the reasons why people serve others? Write it on a person shape, on the torso.

Share some examples and stick the people shapes on a board at the front.

What does the Bible say about what we do? Groups to look at some verses and talk about them and give feedback to whole group. (5 minutes)

Read the verses you have been given several times.

What do you think is the main idea of the verses you have?

Write the main idea in a person shape and choose someone in your group to share. Add these to the other ideas that have already been shared.

1 Peter 4:10-11

¹⁰ God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another. ¹¹ Do you have the gift of speaking? Then speak as though God himself were speaking through you. Do you have the gift of helping others? Do it with all the strength and energy that God supplies. Then everything you do will bring glory to God through Jesus Christ. All glory and power to him forever and ever! Amen.

Galatians 5:13-15

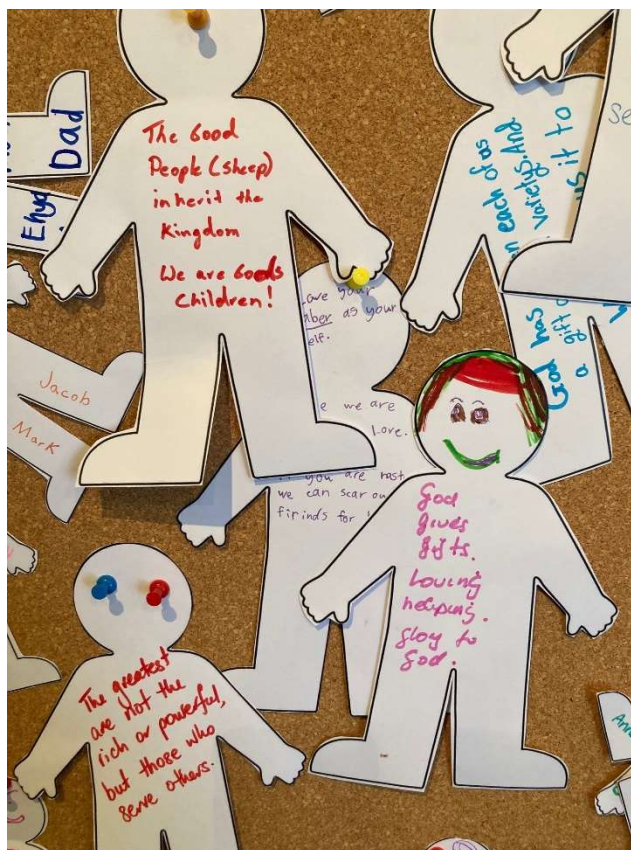
¹³ For you have been called to live in freedom, my brothers and sisters. But don't use your freedom to satisfy your sinful nature. Instead, use your freedom to serve one another in love. ¹⁴ For the whole law can be summed up in this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself."^[c] ¹⁵ But if you are always biting and devouring one another, watch out! Beware of destroying one another.

Luke 22:24-27

²⁴ Then they began to argue among themselves about who would be the greatest among them. ²⁵ Jesus told them, "In this world the kings and great men lord it over their people, yet they are called 'friends of the people.'" ²⁶ But among you it will be different. Those who are the greatest among you should take the lowest rank, and the leader should be like a servant. ²⁷ Who is more important, the one who sits at the table or the one who serves? The one who sits at the table, of course. But not here! For I am among you as one who serves.

James 2: 14-18

⁴ What good is it, dear brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but don't show it by your actions? Can that kind of faith save anyone? ¹⁵ Suppose you see a brother or sister who has no food or clothing, ¹⁶ and you say, "Good-bye and



have a good day; stay warm and eat well”—but then you don’t give that person any food or clothing. What good does that do?

¹⁷ So you see, faith by itself isn’t enough. Unless it produces good deeds, it is dead and useless.

¹⁸ Now someone may argue, “Some people have faith; others have good deeds.” But I say, “How can you show me your faith if you don’t have good deeds? I will show you my faith by my good deeds.”

Jesus – Matthew 25:31-45

³¹ “But when the Son of Man^[a] comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit upon his glorious throne. ³² All the nations^[a] will be gathered in his presence, and he will separate the people as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. ³³ He will place the sheep at his right hand and the goats at his left.

³⁴ “Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you from the creation of the world. ³⁵ For I was hungry, and you fed me. I was thirsty, and you gave me a drink. I was a stranger, and you invited me into your home. ³⁶ I was naked, and you gave me clothing. I was sick, and you cared for me. I was in prison, and you visited me.’

³⁷ “Then these righteous ones will reply, ‘Lord, when did we ever see you hungry and feed you? Or thirsty and give you something to drink? ³⁸ Or a stranger and show you hospitality? Or naked and give you clothing? ³⁹ When did we ever see you sick or in prison and visit you?’

⁴⁰ “And the King will say, ‘I tell you the truth, when you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters,^[f] you were doing it to me!’



Read story on Servant leadership – Jesus Storybook Bible page 286

‘I am doing this because I love you,’ Jesus explained. ‘Do this for each other.’ This is a very clear message in God’s story. We serve because God loves us.

Activity for children: Decorate a person shape as themselves. Decorate some cookie shapes on one side, with sticky dots and felt pens.



Talk with Parents and caregivers: What does research say about the importance of serving for our children and young people?

Sticky Faith. One of their findings, in their research on what makes faith stick in young people, is that being involved in service of others grows faith.

So we serve because it is an expression of our faith and love for God, and serving also helps our faith and love in God to grow and stick.

Grow ministries. Service or reaching out to others is in the top 5 ways to help your family grow in faith.

5 REACH OUT

Weave service and hospitality into your family life. Volunteer together for causes you care about. Get to know the people in your neighborhood. Care for those who are hurting. Talk about injustice and advocate for change together.

Testimony – someone to interview. Find a parent, possibility with older children, who can share how being involved in service was important in developing the faith of their child. Find a teenager or young adult who can share this from their perspective.

Possible interview questions:

Why are you involved in serving in the church?

Why do you think it is important as a parent?

Why do you think it is important, as a teenager, to serve others?

What role has your family had in encouraging you to serve others?

Discuss in table groups. What could service opportunities look like in families with children under 10?

What excites you and scares you about this topic?

How can the church partner with you in this area?

Write your ideas on a piece of paper, to be collected.

Brief feedback

Resources to take home:

Cookie Jar of Kindness – jar with label, cardboard cookies to take home (the children have been decorating these during the adult talk). This is a family activity to encourage serving one another in the family – where service often starts, especially for our youngest children.



5 Ways to practice justice and mercy with kids (Dwell at home resources)

5 ways to practice service with a family (Dwell at home resources)

<https://dwell.faithaliveresources.org/home.html>

**5 WAYS TO
PRACTICE SERVICE
AS A FAMILY**

Service is a response to God's love for us in Jesus Christ. We learn to live like Jesus by serving others through specific, tangible actions that contribute to the dignity and well-being of the people we serve. Here are some ways your family can grow in the practice of service together.

- 1 SERVE EACH OTHER**
Cultivating a servant heart starts at home, and even young children can learn to help and respect others. Provide ability-appropriate ways for each person to practice service within your family. For example, doing simple household chores teaches kids that service is part of living in community. Encouraging kids to look for random acts of kindness to do for family members helps them see service as an expression of love, not merely of obligation.
- 2 SERVE YOUR CHURCH FAMILY**
Notice and name the gifts you see in each other, and talk together about how to use those gifts to serve your church family. Some ideas: join a praise team, clean up after coffeetime, befriend newcomers, lead a Sunday school class, set aside time once a month to create and send cards.
- 3 SERVE YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD**
To serve your neighbors well, you need to know them. Be intentional about developing relationships, especially with those who seem different from you. Lending a hand, sharing tools and toys, offering a ride, watering plants, and helping with homework or childcare are just a few of the simple ways to involve your family in acts of kindness and generosity.
- 4 SERVE YOUR CITY**
Get to know the needs in your city, and seek opportunities to participate in good work already being done by community partners: a local library, refugee resettlement agency, or food bank might be a good place to start. Look for opportunities that allow you to serve long-term and build relationships.
- 5 SERVE YOUR WORLD**
Look for tangible ways to make changes that you would like to see in the world around you. Choose a global cause that's close to your heart and plan a way to support it together. For example, be intentional about recycling, reducing, reusing, repairing, and repurposing and talk about how these simple actions serve God's creation. Bookmark dojustice.crcna.org and visit it for ideas, information, and updates.

Want to dig deeper? Check out the Faith Practices Project's family resources on listening at crcna.org/FaithPracticesProject.



dwellcurriculum.org/home

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