

SERVICE

LESSON SEVEN

Follow up *(As a family discuss the assignment for the lesson Goals.)*

1. What are the goals we set as a family?
2. What are we doing to reach our goals?

Concept

Service is kindness in action. Service is giving to others; lifting loads and brightening lives. Having an attitude of service means looking for ways to help rather than waiting to be asked. The needs of others are important to those who unselfishly serve. They help people because they care about them, not because they expect a reward. Those who serve others will also benefit--they'll enjoy good feelings of self-worth and an increased capacity to love.

For a child, serving others can be as simple as being friendly at school. One teacher said, "Children who have attitudes of service are alert to situations in which classmates are hurting. If they see a student eating alone, they sit with him. They are understanding and caring."

For a parent, serving children and family is part of the "job." A parent's attitude about service is a powerful example to children. Serving cheerfully teaches children that joy comes from service.

The truth is that "self-centered" people are not as happy as those who are "others-centered." Instead of looking at mirrors to see what we need, let's look through windows to see other people's needs. In families there are countless opportunities to serve one another.

A Hindu proverb reads, "Help thy brother's boat across, and lo, thy own has reached the shore." Lightening the burdens of others brings joy, and strengthens us individually and as a family.

Family Survey Review

Statement #7. **Our family helps one another.**

- Do we help one another? What are some of the things we can do in our family to help each other?

- What are some of the ways we can give service without being asked?

Story

There are two seas in Palestine. One sea is fresh. Fish live in it. Trees and bushes grow near it. Children splash and play in it. The river Jordan flows into this sea from the north with sparkling water from the hills. People build their homes near it. Every kind of life is happier because it is there. It is called the Sea of Galilee. The same river Jordan flows south out of it into another sea. Here there are no fish, no green things, no children playing, no homes being built. Stale air hangs above its waters, and neither man nor beast will drink of it. It is called the Dead Sea. What makes the difference between these neighbor seas? Not the Jordan River. It empties the same good water into both. Nor is it the soil or the countryside.

The difference is that the Sea of Galilee receives water but does not keep it. For every drop that flows in, another drop flows out. The giving and the receiving go on in equal measure. The Dead Sea hoards its income. Every drop it gets, it keeps. The Sea of Galilee gives and gives. The Dead Sea gives nothing.

There are also two kinds of people in this world--those Dead Sea people who take without giving back, and the givers who remain fresh and vibrant by freely giving service and sharing of themselves.

Discussion

1. Which sea are we like, the Dead Sea or the Sea of Galilee?
2. How can we be more like the Sea of Galilee, giving of ourselves to others?

Activity

As a family, let's participate in one of the acts of service listed below, or think of our own.

- Plant a tree.
- Clean/rake/snow-shovel a neighbor's yard.
- Be friendlier at school.
- Help an elderly person with housework or yard work.
- Tend children for a young mother without pay.
- Read to a child.
- Pick up trash along the highway.
- Do volunteer work in the community.
- Take a meal to a needy family.
- Contribute to church and community projects.

Assignment

1. Keep looking for opportunities to serve others at home, at work, and in the community.
1. Each family member do one act of service during the coming week. Then share what you did at the next lesson.
2. If you wish, as a family do one (*or both*) of the activities: Taped Books; Form Letter.

ACTIVITY

TAPED BOOKS

In many families, reading aloud is an enjoyable tradition. Listening to familiar voices and reading favorite stories helps children feel loved and secure. It also helps develop a life-long appreciation for books. Adults benefit, too, because reading aloud to a child provides a chance to spend special time with them.

In today's families, members don't always live together in the same household. However, as the following activity shows, distance doesn't have to interfere with the closeness that comes from reading aloud. Grandparents, aunts and uncles, etc., can still read aloud to younger family members even though they're miles apart. Younger family members can read to elderly relatives also.

Activity

3. Buy or borrow one or two books suitable to the listener's age and interest level.
Examples:

For Reading Out Loud! A Guide to Sharing Books with Children, Margaret Mary Kimmel & Elizabeth Segal, New York: Delacorte Press, 1983.

The Read Aloud Handbook, Jim Trelease, New York: Penguin Books, 1982

4. Read the books before making the tape so you are familiar with the story and vocabulary.
3. Now, read the book aloud as you tape.
 - First, explain how glad you are to be reading to them.
 - Next, give the title and author of the book.
 - Read slowly and naturally, as though the listener were sitting beside you.

5. When the tape is filled, mail it (with the book, if you desire) in a padded envelope.

ACTIVITY FORM LETTER

Dear _____,

Hello! How are you? We are trying to write more often, and our family thinks using this form letter will help us. You might be interested to know that_____

_____.

It's been really _____

because _____

The weather here has been

☐ rainy

☐ sunny

☐ gorgeous

☐ windy

☐ snowy

☐ gloomy

☐ warm

☐ heavenly

☐ foggy

☐ hot

☐ nasty

☐ stormy

☐ muddy

☐ humid

☐ yucky

☐ other

and so I have been _____.

Things have been pretty _____ at our house.

_____ is/are _____, and that means that _____

_____. Last week, _____ had to _____

because _____.

_____ says to tell you _____.

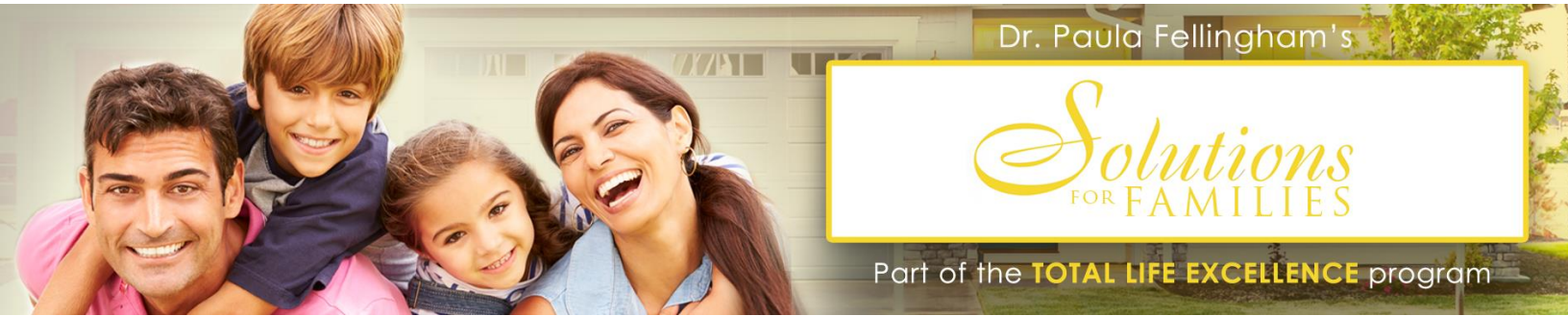
He/She is _____ and will probably _____ before too much

longer. One wonderful / terrible / exciting / interesting thing that happened to me recently was

_____.

I felt really _____ about it because _____

_____. Before I go, I just want to say



_____ and I hope you _____.

Fondly,