



# FAMILY

## Service Projects

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Blessing Our Community: Family Service Projects

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# HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

## Hey Pastors + Leaders!

This Family Service Projects guide is designed to be sent home for families to use to bless their communities! These are practical suggestions that allow families to take what they are learning and praying for into the community so we can share God's love with others by blessing them!

Some ways you can use this guide:

- Challenge your whole church to do each challenge each week during the Half-Million Mobilization.
- Give this guide to your families to Choose Their Own Challenge as they pray for opportunities to bless their communities.
- Encourage families to read the Blessing Our Community: Family Devotional each day of the week and on the weekends, complete one of the challenges in this guide.
- Consider throwing a party / follow-up event at the end of the Half-Million Mobilization where families can share their stories of how God used them to bless the community.
- You could offer families a special prize for completing the entire Blessing Our Community Challenge board.

Whatever you do, collect the stories from families as they bless their communities and then tell those stories! The church has a long history of testifying to what God has done in our midst; continue this tradition in your church by sharing what the Holy Spirit has been up to during the Half-Million Mobilization!

We pray this Family Service Projects guide is one more tool that allows you to bless the community around your church through the power of prayer and the Holy Spirit!

# WEEK 1

## Blessing Our Community Challenge



### INSTRUCTIONS:

In this booklet, you will find seven weeks of Family Service Projects you can do as a family! You can keep track of each project you do on your Blessing Our Community Challenge board (see next page). The official weekly Family Service Projects are listed in the **ORANGE squares** and the bonus activities are listed in the **BLUE squares**. Try to complete the activities from at least 4 boxes in a row (vertical, horizontal, or diagonal) over the next 7 weeks!

This week, read the story of the Good Samaritan in Luke 10:25-37. Have someone read Luke 10:37b out loud:

*“Jesus told him, ‘Go and do as he did.’”*

Jesus uses the example of the Samaritan man who was kind to the hurt Jewish man. In a way, you could say he was a hero. He saw a need, and he willingly stepped in to fill that need. He saved that man’s life like a hero. Jesus specifically tells us we should go and do as he (the Samaritan) did. One reason Jesus was telling us to follow the Samaritan’s example is because the Samaritan was following Jesus’ example. All throughout the Bible, we see Jesus extending love and kindness to the people around him. Oftentimes, the people were sick, hungry, hurting, and felt unloved—until they had an encounter with Jesus! We want to extend the love of God to our community just like the Samaritan and just like Jesus. We want to be a hero in the name of Jesus.

Look over the Blessing Our Community Challenge board and discuss:

- Which boxes should we work together to complete?
- Which service projects are you most excited for?
- What is one challenge activity we can complete this week?

Put your board somewhere where everyone will see it regularly. You can post your board on your refrigerator or in your car so you can work on them while you are out in the community.

# BLESSING OUR COMMUNITY CHALLENGE

Week 2:  
Paper Heart  
Blitz

Do a secret act of kindness for someone in your family (do something so they won't have to).

Go to a park or walk through your neighborhood and pick up trash.

Week 6:  
Excellence  
Awards

When you go to a public place, hold the door open for someone.

Week 3:  
Intentional  
Acts of  
Kindness

Take a walk and pray for the leaders in your city. Ask God to give them wisdom.

Draw a picture and write an encouraging message in sidewalk chalk at the bottom of your driveway or sidewalk.

Drive through your community and pray for people who are hurting or having a hard time in life.

Donate food, clothes, or items to your church donation ministry or to a local donation site.

Week 4:  
Compassion  
Dash

Call or write a note and color a picture to mail to an elderly friend or family member.

Week 7:  
Blessing  
Bags

Paint rocks with encouraging thoughts, messages, or scriptures to leave outside around your community.

Invite someone to come to church with you.

Week 5:  
Good  
Samaritans



# WEEK 1

## Blessing Our Community Challenge

### FOLLOW UP QUESTIONS:

- Did you try any Blessing Our Community Challenges this week?
- How did it make you feel to complete the acts of blessings to others?
- Think about the people you were able to bless. What do you think your act of kindness meant to them? How do you know?
- Based on this experience, do you think being a hero means you always have to do something big and amazing, or can God use you to be a hero even in simple ways? Talk about this together.

### PRAYER:

Dear God, thank you for the ways we got to bless others this week! Help us to continue to be a blessing to the community in the name of Jesus. Amen.



—Candice Brooks, Co-Founder, Equip to Engage

# WEEK 2

## Paper Heart Blitz

### MATERIALS NEEDED:

- Paper (printer, construction, craft)
- Markers / Crayons / Pens / Colored Pencils
- Scissors
- Tape
- Optional: Craft supplies such as stickers, sequins, glue, tape, ribbon, etc.

### INSTRUCTIONS:

Cut out several paper hearts, the more the better! As a family, pick a person or family to bless. Write specific messages to or about the person/family on the hearts (Examples: God loves you! You are a blessing!) Drive to where they live and tape the hearts on their door as a surprise! You can either sneak away or knock/ring the doorbell and run once you're done!

Feeling inspired? Let each kid or family member make their own set of hearts and then "Paper Heart Blitz" multiple people together!





# WEEK 2

## Paper Heart Blitz

### FOLLOW UP QUESTIONS:

- Who did you decide to give a Paper Heart Blitz to?
- How would you feel if someone did a Paper Heart Blitz for you?
- Why do you think it's encouraging to hear things like "God loves you!" or "You're a blessing?"
- How can you be encouraging to someone else today?

### PRAYER:

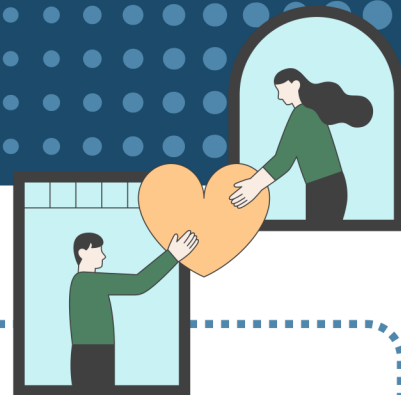
Dear Lord, help us to be people who love you and love others through our words and our actions. Encourage us as we encourage others! Amen.



—Evan Offutt Boesiger, Connections Pastor, Living Word Church

# WEEK 3

## Intentional Acts of Kindness



### INSTRUCTIONS:

For this week's service project, set aside 20-30 minutes and pick a location you might visit often (the grocery store, a park, sports practice, church, etc.). You likely do not need to bring anything extra with you.

Before you go, pray as a family, "If there is anyone who needs your love today, God, use us. We are available." And then go and truly be available to wherever the Spirit of God leads you. Look around, take notice of people and situations you see, and find where you can be intentionally available to serve—through listening, doing, loving, and being present.

Some examples might include:

- Sit with someone new at sports practice or a game. Ask questions and get to know them. Cheer on your new friends!
- Visit the park and start conversations with others there. Encourage kids to invite others to join them in play.
- Get to church early! Find someone you haven't connected with before and take the time to introduce yourself.
- Grab a pizza on your way to the park. Bless a family by giving them the pizza, taking care of their dinner for the evening.
- Bring a garbage bag with you and pick up trash.

God will use your availability and will open the door for you to serve.



# WEEK 3

## Intentional Acts of Kindness

### FOLLOW UP QUESTIONS:

- What ways were we able to be used by God today? How did it feel to serve?
- What was it like to be intentionally available and ready to share the love of God today, despite not knowing what might come our way?
- What was the easiest part? What was the most challenging?
- Can you think of new ways to serve our community in the future?

### PRAYER:

God, help us to keep our eyes open to see what you already see: people who need your love. Help us to be people who love you and love others. Amen.



—Heather Pillers, Children's Pastor, Nampa College Church

# WEEK 4



## Compassion Dash

### MATERIALS NEEDED:

- Camera or Phone
- Cookies (Homemade or store bought - just make people aware of potential food allergies if they are homemade.)
- Cards (Cards that are handmade with love are the best! Decorate them with pictures, stickers, or a picture of your family. If you go to an animal shelter, draw or take a picture of your pet to go in the card.)

### INSTRUCTIONS:

Before you start this week's service project, read Luke 10:33 together. This week's challenge is to show compassion and appreciation to people in your community who serve others and let them know they are loved by God.

Choose the places and people in your community you will visit. Examples: Hospital, Doctor's Office or Clinic, First Responders, Senior Living or Care Facility, Vet Clinic or Shelter, Your School (Teacher or Administrator), Your Church (Pastor or Sunday School Teacher), or Gas Station.

Set a time limit for each of your stops and determine if you will make several stops in one day or spread it out over a week. Make the cards described in the suggested supply list. Make or buy cookies or special treats (don't forget to choose allergy-friendly options or list the ingredients). Plan to visit each location and deliver the cookies and cards. This might include calling ahead of time to make sure they will be open so someone will be there to receive your gift. Plan to take a photograph with the people at each location. You can make a photo book of your race or hang them up at home to remember to pray compassionately for the people you visited. If you plan to post pictures to social media, remember it is polite to get their permission to do so.

Now: Get Ready, Get Set, and GO on your Compassion Dash!

# WEEK 4

## FOLLOW UP QUESTIONS:

- What is compassion?
- Why do you think people need compassion?
- How does God show us compassion?
- How did we show compassion today?
- Who else can we show compassion to today?



## PRAYER:

Dear Holy Spirit, give us eyes to see with compassion. Show us the people who need to know they are loved by you. Help us to show compassion to others just like you have shown compassion to us. Amen.



—Shane Galdi, Children's Pastor, One Church  
Cortney Coombs, Children's Pastor, Anderson First Church of the Nazarene

# WEEK 5



## Good Samaritans

### INSTRUCTIONS:

Read Luke 10:33-35 together.

**What We Know:** The Samaritan in the story helps the injured traveler—he is often called “the Good Samaritan.” The word “Samaritan” often refers to a person who helps and sacrifices a lot for someone else. To help the injured traveler, the Samaritan gave up important things to himself—being on time, some wine, oil, and silver coins, plus riding his donkey. He gave these things up to help a person who was hurt that he didn’t know. These choices cost him something. We wonder how he felt as he helped the injured traveler.

**The Challenge:** This week, we challenge you to help someone by “putting your skin in the game,” which is another way of saying you will be doing just what the Samaritan did—helping someone even if it costs you something important. Here’s how:

**Sit down** as a family and make a list of Families or People who are being “Good Samaritans.” For example:

- Someone you know who is caring for a sick family member
- A special caregiver or health care worker
- A teacher, counselor, or health care worker at your school
- A friend who is especially kind and good at taking care of others

**Talk** about how these people have given up something important to them in order to help someone or how they have “put their skin in the game.” Pick one of the two activities below to do as a family.

**Activity 1:** Choose from the options below what you will do this week for your “Samaritan” (or make up your own!):

- Give up something special to donate to a person/family/charity in need (a favorite toy, game, piece of clothing, sports equipment, or book).

# WEEK 5

## Good Samaritans

- Buy your favorite snack or meal and give it to the “Samaritan” Family or Person instead of eating it yourself.
- Have all who are participating get their wallet or piggy bank and contribute money from their allowance or paycheck.
- Purchase a gift card or gift for your “Samaritan” Family or Person.
- Think of a Family in Need and as a family go and be a “Samaritan” to that Family or Person by doing some spring cleaning, washing their vehicle, doing some errands, or planting some flowers.

**Activity 2:** Is there someone who is a newcomer to your country or community?

- Think—or ask—about their biggest need and how you and your family can tell them you are glad they moved into your neighborhood.
- Make a plan on how to meet this need, considering what you might give up to make this happen.
- Go and be a “Samaritan” to them.

### FOLLOW UP QUESTIONS:

- How did it make you feel to give up something?
- Did it make a difference that you were giving it up to help someone else? Why or why not?
- What did it feel like to “put your skin in the game?”

### PRAYER:

Thank you, Lord, for the chance to care for others in our community! We love you! Amen.



—Tammy Herbert, District NDI President, Canada West  
Sheri Lynne Martin, NDI Educational Field Coordinator, Canada

# WEEK 6

## Excellence Awards



### MATERIALS NEEDED:

- Paper (printer, construction, craft)
- Markers / Crayons / Pens / Colored Pencils
- Scissors
- Tape
- Optional: Craft supplies such as stickers, sequins, glue, tape, ribbon, etc.

### INSTRUCTIONS:

Think about someone you know who doesn't get much recognition for what they do. Maybe it's a janitor at school, a (Sunday school) teacher, bus driver, or local fast food employee. Each person should create an award (using the supplies listed above—be creative!) for someone who probably doesn't get much recognition. Make the award specifically for that person, highlighting a quality you see in them. Decorate it with color and whatever craft supplies you have. You can either go as a family to deliver the awards, or put them in your bag, car, or other place where you'll have them on hand to deliver next time you see the recipient!





# WEEK 6

## Excellence Awards

### FOLLOW UP QUESTIONS:

- Why do you think some people don't get recognized for all the hard work they do?
- What does it feel like when someone forgets to thank you?
- What are some ways we can remember to say thank you to each other?
- Why do you think it's important to say thank you to others?

### PRAYER:

Dear Jesus, thank you for all the ways you love us. Help us to be people who are thankful for all you have done and for all the things people around us do who might be forgotten sometimes. Help us encourage others by remembering them. Amen.



—Evan Offutt Boesiger, Connections Pastor, Living Word Church

# WEEK 7

## Blessing Bags



### INSTRUCTIONS:

Read Genesis 12:2 together.

**What We Know:** When reading this verse, do you notice how many times God tells Abram (Abraham), "I will"? Yes! Three times! When God says, "I will," it means he is making a promise, and God always keeps his promises! Imagine that! Our God is a good God who blesses us over and over and over again. God promises always to love us, be with us, and help us. So, let's remember to trust God's promises and be a blessing to others!

**The Challenge:** When people do good things for others, there is a tendency to keep score and expect something in return. But, if you notice in our verse when God points out his three blessings, all God expects in return is for Abraham to be a blessing to others. Since we have been blessed, the right thing for us to do is to bless others without expecting anything in return. This week, your challenge is to create and build unique "Blessing Bags" to give away to people in your community.

**Sit down** as a family and make a list of people in your community whom you could bless this week. For example:

- Do you pass by any people without homes in your town?
- Do you have a delivery person, mail carrier, or trash collector who comes by your home?
- Do you have a server who serves you at a restaurant?
- Are there any first responders?
- How about your teachers, cafeteria workers, custodians, etc., at your school or church?

Think about some special items you can gather to place inside your "blessing bags" that you can have on hand, ready to give out to people when the opportunity arises.

# WEEK 7

## Blessing Bags

For example:

- Water or Sports Drink bottle
- Granola Bars
- Healthy snack bags
- Candy
- Hand-written Bible verses
- A special note of encouragement



**Gather** up your items and begin creating your "Blessing Bags." You could put all the items inside a gift bag or a large zip-lock bag. Be creative. Be intentional. Make each bag special. You could store a few in your car or backpack to have them accessible when you see someone you would like to bless, but be careful your items will not melt on a hot day!

**Pray** over your "blessing bags" once you have completed them, thinking about each person you will be blessing!

### FOLLOW UP QUESTIONS:

- How did you feel when you handed out your blessing bag?
- What are some ways God has blessed you?
- What are some other ways you can be a blessing to people this week?

### PRAYER:

Dear Jesus, thank you for all of the ways you have blessed my family and me. We pray each person you lead us to give a "Blessing Bag" to will be blessed and see they are loved by you! We thank you for allowing us to be a blessing to our community! Amen.

—Mike Hancock, Lead Pastor, Hot Springs First Church of the Nazarene  
Beth Bidle Rush, SPARK Director, Equip to Engage

