

SERVING/OUTREACH

Why this is important: Self-sacrifice for the benefit of others is a prevalent theme throughout the Bible, with Jesus Himself providing the ultimate sacrifice on our behalf. Our faith grows and we become more like Jesus when we follow His example. Serving together as a group provides a fast track to developing strong relationships and trust with each other.

Scripture: Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. (Philippians 2:3-4)

The focus of this role is to encourage/coordinate serving and outreach opportunities, and guide group growth in this area. A group may start with level one serving activities (see description below) or it may be ready to serve at a higher level. Over time a group will naturally move toward a deeper, more consistent/regular level of serving.

- Level 1: Group members serve each other by helping with the various small group roles.
- Level 2: Group members serve each other when a crisis arises for one of the members.
- Level 3: Group members serve together (or individually) at church or at a church-organized serving event.
- Level 4: Group members serve regularly together outside the church in a way that fosters multiplication of the group through inviting unchurched or unconnected people into the group and the life of the church.

Examples of each level of serving/outreach:

Level 1: Help in a small group role

- Facilitate discussion
- Lead ice breaker
- Serve as host/hostess
- Offer group prayer ideas
- Communicate with group members and maintain group information
- Encourage/coordinate serving & outreach opportunities

Level 2: Serve each other as needs arise for members of the group

- Providing meals
- Doing yard or house work
- Visiting while ill
- Sending cards or notes of encouragement
- Running errands
- Babysitting children

Level 3: Serve at church or at a church-organized event

- Serve together as an usher or greeter team on Sunday mornings
- Serve together on SOV's monthly Loaves & Fishes team
- Serve/provide food for a specific church event/meeting
- Serve individually in various roles throughout the church (see sov.church/serve)
- Serve together at the Hudson Backpack program

Level 4: Reach the unchurched/unconnected

- Host a barbecue and have each group member invite one or more unchurched friends.
- Go on a prayer walk through your neighborhood or a troubled area of the city.
- Pray together for an unchurched person/family and provide a meal or other support.
- Purchase and deliver gifts as a group at Christmas to a local family or through Angel Tree or Compassion International.

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- Hand out flowers to shoppers in a grocery store parking lot and share Jesus' love with them.
- Work together on writing and giving faith testimonies so that you are prepared to share when the Holy Spirit calls you to do so.
- Help a refugee family integrate into life in Minnesota by serving for a year with Arrive Ministries.
- Serve at the Dwelling Placed or Food Harvest together.
- Visit sov.church/serve for additional serving ideas.