

## Advance Activities

Use one or more of these family activities to help your children learn more about what it means to be a servant.

### ISPY:

Take the family to a sit-down restaurant. Tell the children they are spies who must identify the best servant. Help them notice the waiter/waitress by asking them to point out clues that suggest a servant's attitude, spirit and work. (i.e. Listening well, taking care of the needs of others, etc.)

### FROZEN ARMS:

Tell the children that you magically froze their arms so they are not allowed to bend elbows or wrists. Place candy or cookies in the middle of the table and tell them they can each eat one. Without bending their arms, however, it will be impossible to serve themselves – so they must figure out how to serve one another to get the good stuff! When done, explain that we are called to serve those unable to serve themselves – but the real blessing comes back to us.

### READ TOGETHER:

Read and discuss the following Scriptures.

**Matthew 25:34-40** (Jesus described serving others as serving Him.)

**Mark 10:43-45** (Jesus described servants as "great.")

**Philippians 2:5-7** (Jesus modeled humility & service.)

**James 1:27** (Christians are to care for the needy.)

### REFLECTION:

Take time to reflect together about the spiritual discipline of service. In addition to the activities above, you may want to use some of the excellent book and website resources described on the back panel.

"Good works are links that form a chain of love."- Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta

## Going Further Resources

The following resources are recommended to help you become more intentional about building a God-honoring family one step at a time.

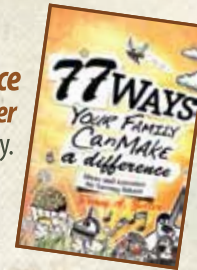


### *The Busy Family's Guide to Volunteering* by Jenny Friedman

Perfect for busy parents who want to spend time with their children while contributing to the community.

### *77 Ways Your Family Can Make a Difference* by Penny A. Ziller

Practical tips and ideas for serving together as a family.



### *Raising Charitable Children* by Carol Weisman

Parents and grandparents find inspirational ways to teach children to give back to the community.

[stmichaels-westend.org](http://stmichaels-westend.org) click on "ministries"  
[dioceseof trenton.org](http://dioceseof trenton.org) click on "justice and caring"

## Serving Together *To Build a Stronger Family*

### Creating Meaningful Family Serving Experiences

#### Why Serve together?

One great way a family can grow closer to God and one another is by doing simple acts of service together. Benefits include . . .

- The joy of making a difference together
- An opportunity to emphasize virtues like generosity and humility with our children
- Increasing a child's sense of gratitude through exposure to those less fortunate

#### Why don't we serve together?

Which obstacles can you intentionally overcome?

- Never considered serving together with the family
- Schedules too full with "us" focused activities
- Age of kids makes it challenging
- Have not found the right opportunity for our home

The following pages contain ideas to help your family overcome such obstacles.