

Kids' Ministry Training Video 12: Families on Mission

Most parents agree that mission is important, but many don't know how to engage in mission as a family. Some want to wait until the kids are older, or the family is less busy to find meaningful ways to serve, but mission is an important part of faith development for all ages. Kids have so much head knowledge, but it's often not until they start to show the love of Jesus that they discover the difference that Jesus really makes.

Ideas for Serving Together

Here are some ideas to help the families in your church serve in mission together.

- See.** As a family, learn about the needs of your community and world. Perhaps you could attend a workshop, look at a website, talk to some neighbours or simply look around you to become educated.
- Respond.** Check out Baptist World Aid's website for ethical shopping guides or gift ideas that make a difference. Or, maybe the whole family could give up some treat, and instead donate the money to a missionary supported by your church. Make meals for those who are unwell or in other difficult circumstances
- Speak.** Talk about the difference that Jesus makes, and who you'd like to share this wonderful news with. Invite a friend to church or a program (mum or dad could help kids with lifts), hand out Christmas cards that share the real meaning of Christmas, or practice sharing your own story about becoming God's friend and then tell it to someone who hasn't met Jesus yet!
- Invite.** Think about who you could welcome into your home. Perhaps you could host a BBQ for your street, invite someone who is lonely over for dinner or bake muffins together to bless someone.
- Go.** Is there a beach mission team families could serve with? Some mission organisations run trips specifically designed for families within Australia and overseas. Experiencing God at work in another location or culture can have a huge impact in a family's faith.

Further Reading

Practical ideas for families <http://togethermagazine.com.au/2014/12/10/oh-you-brought-your-kids/>

Loving Neighbours <https://www.vergenetwork.org/2015/10/18/loving-your-neighbors-as-a-family/>

Righteous Brood Hugh Halter <http://hughhalter.com/blog/2013/02/15/righteous-brood-new-free-e-book>

Questions for Your Team

- What ways are families in our church already serving in mission together?
- Make a list of the five areas: Learning, Evangelism, Hospitality, Acts of Service, and Mission Trips. As a team brainstorm other practical ways that families in your church could engage in these areas.
- How can we better empower and equip families in our church to serve in mission together?