



WEEK 1

JOHN 13:1-17

Jesus Washes His Disciples' Feet

SAY THIS: Serve others because of what Jesus did for us.

WEEK 2

1 PETER 4:10-11

Meet People's Needs

SAY THIS: Look for ways to serve others.

WEEK 3

JOHN 6:1-13

Feeding 5,000

SAY THIS: Use what you have to serve others.

WEEK 4

MATTHEW 6:1-4

Give in Secret

SAY THIS: Serve others without looking for applause.

REMEMBER THIS

"Jesus sat down and called for the 12 disciples to come to him. Then he said, "Anyone who wants to be first must be the very last. They must be the servant of everyone."
Mark 9:35, NIV

LIFE
APP

SERVICE—Lending a hand to help someone else

DO THIS



MORNING TIME

As you say goodbye to your child this morning say this: "Be on the lookout today for someone who needs help. Helping others is a way to show God's love."



DRIVE TIME

While driving tell your child to be on the lookout for ways we can serve. Is the park dirty? Let's make a plan to clean it up! Pay for someone's meal in the drive through. Talk about how you can help your teacher or a friend in school.



MEAL TIME

Q & A for kids: What holds you back from serving others sometimes?

Q & A for parents: Share about a time someone served you and it brought you joy.



BED TIME

Read John 13. Jesus, God's own Son, set aside what He deserved to serve His friends. We can serve our friends and families and the people we meet every day. Together, brainstorm some creative ways that you could serve others at home, school, and in your community. Then choose one to do this week. Ask God to give each of you a heart and opportunity to serve others.

Download the free **Parent Cue App**

AVAILABLE FOR IOS AND ANDROID DEVICES



WEEK ONE

JOHN 13:1-17

Jesus Washes His
Disciples' Feet

SAY THIS

**Serve others because of
what Jesus did for us.**

DO THIS



MORNING TIME

As you say goodbye to your child this morning say this: "Be on the lookout today for someone who needs help. Helping others is a way to show God's love."

REMEMBER THIS

"Jesus sat down and called for the 12 disciples to come to him. Then he said, "Anyone who wants to be first must be the very last. They must be the servant of everyone."

Mark 9:35, NIV

LIFE APP

SERVICE—Lending a hand to help someone else

THE PROBLEM WITH TIME

By Jon Acuff

Parent guilt is widespread and ever present in the minds of most parents. It's an underlying dread that maybe you're not a good enough parent. Maybe other parents have it together and you don't. Maybe we've all got it figured out and you're the only one with doubts and fears.

I could write a book about not measuring up. I could give a thousand speeches about not comparing yourself to other parents online. But instead, since you're busy, let me just do one thing today. Let me tell you one idea. Ready?

"There's no such thing as spending enough time with your kid." That's it. That's what I need you to know. Why did I tell you that? Because parents often feel terrible about the amount of time they spend with their kids. They tell me, "I'm not spending enough time with my kids. I'm too busy. I could do a much better job spending time with my kids."

I love the idea of being deliberate about spending time with your kids, I really do. The problem is that sometimes that desire turns into a shame-filled act of perfectionism. "Enough time" morphs into "The perfect amount of time." We think one more date, one more football toss in the yard, one more dinner will

allow us to reach this land of perfection. It won't. It doesn't exist. There are no perfect parents.

So today, admit that you'll never feel like you spent enough time with your kid. That's the nature of love. Love is not done when you hit a certain number of hours. It always seeks more. You'll always wish you could spend more time with your kid.

The second thing I want you to do is to widen the circle. Be deliberate about adding other wise adults into your kid's life. When my daughter's small group leader teaches her in small group, she's filling her bucket with time in a way that I just can't. My daughter doesn't want me to lead her small group. That makes complete sense.

That's one of my favorite parts of widening the circle. It gives your kid more time from more voices. Don't worry about perfect. Don't worry about enough time. Give all that you can but then accept that it won't be perfect.

For more blog posts
and parenting resources, visit:

ParentCue.org

Download the free **Parent Cue App**

AVAILABLE FOR IOS AND ANDROID DEVICES



WEEK TWO

1 PETER 4:10-11

Meet People's Needs

SAY THIS

Look for ways to
serve others.

DO THIS



MEAL TIME

Q & A for kids: What holds you back from serving others sometimes?

Q & A for parents: Share about a time someone served you and it brought you joy.

REMEMBER THIS

"Jesus sat down and called for the 12 disciples to come to him. Then he said, "Anyone who wants to be first must be the very last. They must be the servant of everyone."

Mark 9:35, NIV

LIFE APP

SERVICE—Lending a hand to help someone else

3 WAYS TO TEACH YOUR KIDS TO BE SERVANT-HEARTED

As parents, we all want our kids to grow up to be compassionate, generous adults who serve others well. And if you watch your kids closely, you'll see evidence of empathy in their nature—in how they kiss their stuffed animals, doctor your (fake) boo boos, and freely give their love to family pets.

But their natural capacity for compassion has to compete with a number of other developmental and environmental forces. A kid's lack of impulse control prompts them to snatch their toy from their sister. And their belief that they are the center of the universe makes it difficult for them to let their friend choose which movie they watch. Those factors, combined with our self-centered culture can make it feel impossible to raise a kid who is servant-hearted.

Service, the Life App for this month, is defined as "Lending a hand to help someone else." How can we teach our kids to embody this principle? How can we teach our kids to use their hands to give instead of take?

Here are a few ideas:

- **Practice what you preach.** Our kids are watching what we do all the time. They observe how we treat servers at restaurants. They see how we talk to AND about other family members. They're watching how we choose to give (or not to give) of our time and resources. Our words,

thoughts, and actions will influence our kid's future words, thoughts, and actions more than we can know.

- **Create a rhythm of service.** Service year-round teaches you and your family to actively look for ways to help others. Think of ways your family can give your money, your talents, and your resources to help those in need. Set a few family, service-oriented goals for the next several months. Write them down and post them where everyone can see.
- **Reinforce what you want repeated.** Just like with any other behavior you want repeated, we should make a BIG deal when our kids lend a hand to help others. Even something as simple as helping you put away groceries should be encouraged and rewarded with words of thanks—or even a special snack! Look for ways your kids are serving and praise them in front of others.

Start with one of these suggestions and go from there. Watch with wonder as your kid learns to lend a hand to help someone else.

For more blog posts
and parenting resources, visit:
ParentCue.org

Download the free **Parent Cue App**

AVAILABLE FOR IOS AND ANDROID DEVICES



WEEK THREE

JOHN 6:1-13

Feeding 5,000

SAY THIS

Use what you have
to serve others.

DO THIS



BED TIME

Read John 13. Jesus, God's own Son, set aside what He deserved to serve His friends. We can serve our friends and families and the people we meet every day. Together, brainstorm some creative ways that you could serve others at home, school, and in your community. Then choose one to do this week. Ask God to give each of you a heart and opportunity to serve others.

REMEMBER THIS

"Jesus sat down and called for the 12 disciples to come to him. Then he said, "Anyone who wants to be first must be the very last. They must be the servant of everyone."

Mark 9:35, NIV

LIFE APP

SERVICE—Lending a hand to help someone else

HUDDLE IN CLOSE

By Brooklyn Lindsey

Life brings tragedy and heartache. And as a parent, you will likely have to watch your child experience grief—whether it be over the loss of a special toy, a friendship or boyfriend, or even the life of someone close to them. And when it happens, your heart breaks too. Because you want to fix it, resolve it, but you know you can't. How do you walk through it with them? What words do you say and how do you comfort your grieving child?

Huddling in close is one of the greatest kindnesses we can show our kids during these times. We don't have to say anything. They likely don't want an explanation. We realize without asking that everything is not fine in their world. The words that they need are your proximity and your heart's empathy. Huddling in close is kindness for the weeping.

In those moments it's normal to be unsure about what to say or what to do. There is no playbook for comforting our kids or anyone in crisis—except the guidance of love, the whisper of empathy, the holy nudge inside telling us to remain quiet or to reach

out. There is no script for explaining to your child the sadness at hand. The best thing we can do is 1) admit that we don't have an answer and 2) resist the temptation to try to make things better with our words.

Words will come later. Love comes in kindness first.

Be kind to the one who is hurting in your life. It could be your spouse, your child, or a friend.

Be kind by huddling in close without expectation and waiting for them to show you how to love them.

Huddle in knowing that love heals us. Huddle in remembering that love binds us together.

Huddle in knowing that forgiveness will come.

Huddle in knowing that the huddling in is the kind of community that every kid and family needs.

Romans 12:15 "Celebrate with those who celebrate and weep with those who weep."

For more blog posts
and parenting resources, visit:
ParentCue.org



WEEK FOUR

MATTHEW 6:1-4

Give in Secret

SAY THIS

**Serve others without
looking for applause.**

DO THIS



DRIVE TIME

While driving tell your child to be on the lookout for ways we can serve. Is the park dirty? Let's make a plan to clean it up! Pay for someone's meal in the drive through. Talk about how you can help your teacher or a friend in school.

REMEMBER THIS

"Jesus sat down and called for the 12 disciples to come to him. Then he said, "Anyone who wants to be first must be the very last. They must be the servant of everyone."
Mark 9:35, NIV

LIFE APP

SERVICE—Lending a hand to help someone else

HOW TO LOSE (AND GAIN) INFLUENCE AS A PARENT

By Carey Nieuwhof

Influence is something to pay attention to no matter what stage of parenting you're in, because ultimately every parent is on a journey from control to influence. We start out with almost complete control of a child's life, but by the time our sons and daughters are eighteen, and ready to face life on their own, all we have left is influence.

This raises an important question: How exactly does influence work? It works like this:

We listen most to the people we love the most.

Our kids inevitably do what you and I do: they listen most to the people they love the most. This means that as a parent, you need to establish an authentic, healthy relationship with your son or daughter if you hope be an influence in their lives.

Influence is easy to lose but takes time to build up. Here are five easy ways to gain influence as a parent:

1. Do what you said you were going to do when you said you were going to do it. It cultivates trust, confidence, and even respect.
2. Enforce limits. Don't think you're helping your kids by letting them off the hook with commitments, boundaries, and responsibilities. One day, they'll thank you for it.

3. Treat one another with kindness. Treat the people closest to you with more kindness than anyone else. (It's natural, by the way, to do the opposite.)

4. Don't overindulge your kids. Let rewards be rewards. As a rule, you shouldn't give your kids rewards for nothing, or for simply doing what's expected of them.

5. Work on your own character. When your kids see you developing your faith and character, you will have a greater impact on their lives.

If you think about it, the people who are gaining influence with you are probably exhibiting some of the characteristics just listed. You love and respect them because they are responsible, kind, considerate people who stand for something and have a deep integrity. The people who are losing influence in your life are people who are inconsistent and emotionally unhealthy.

While it takes discipline to develop your character and stick to sensible limits as a parent, over time, it will help you gain and keep influence with your kids.

For more blog posts
and parenting resources, visit:
ParentCue.org

Download the free Parent Cue App

AVAILABLE FOR IOS AND ANDROID DEVICES