

JOYFUL HOMES AREN'T PERFECT

They serve.



Have you ever found moldy leftovers in the back of the fridge? Someone went through the trouble of packing up that food, but since it didn't get used, it went to waste. Something similar happens in our families. If we close in on ourselves and hide in the back, our joy goes to waste. But if we share our gifts and talents with others, our joy increases exponentially!

As a family, discuss:

- What are some ways our family has served others?
- What particular gifts do we, as a family, have to offer?
- How can we be more intentional and effective at noticing and meeting the needs of others?
- What are some "Do's" and "Don'ts" for respecting the dignity of those we serve?

Pick one practice this month!

One small, attainable goal sets us up for success.

- Take a few moments as a family to consider your strengths. What are you good at offering others:
 - A good meal?
 - Physical labor?
 - Welcome?

Then consider who you know who could use this type of service. Make a plan to do so once this month.

- Get in the habit of anticipating the needs of others by practicing in your family. Draw names, and be that person's "sneaky servant" all month— trying not to get caught helping the other.
- Sign up to help together as a family for an event at your Church.
- If one member of your family normally serves, bring others along to help.

STRATEGIC SERVICE

"Let me know if you need anything!"

When people use this phrase, they almost always want to help. But the recipient doesn't always know what kind of help to request. To increase your chances of being able to serve, try:

- Offering a specific service, like a meal or child care, at a specific time.
- Repeat your offer at regular intervals.
- If you're confident the service would be helpful, anonymously complete it.

Scripture of the month: John 13:14

Wash one another's feet.

Lord, show us the needs of others that you need us to meet.

Want more ideas and encouragement? www.archkcks.org/serve