



# The Practice of Service Thoughts and Suggestions for Youth

The definition of service—an act of helpful activity; help; aid:

Applying this to our faith and looking at True Service, we need to think about what True service looks like. It keeps no record of how many acts of service were completed. True service is done just because there is a need. True service becomes a life-style. True service builds community.

True service is being the “hands and feet of Jesus” serving others with your time and talents.

*Put the word into action. If you think hearing is what matters most, you are going to find you have been deceived. James 1:22*



## Week 1

### ***Self-Righteous Service vs. True Service***

Spend this week thinking about what True Service means to you. Use this chart as a guide.

Decide what type of service you want to give:

Self-Righteous Service	True Service
Prefers the Big, “Notice Me’ jobs	Finds it impossible to tell the difference from the small job or large job
Keeps a record of jobs done and expects compensation, recognition and gratitude	Finds Happiness in service itself
Picks and chooses whom to serve, mostly because of image	Do not need an audience. Almost never notices when others watch
Short-lived	Ongoing lifestyle
Expects something in return for the service	Expects nothing return for the service

## Week 2

Where can you start your service? How about at home. Commit this week to do extra acts of service at home, take out the trash, do the dishes, cook a meal, fold the laundry, make your bed.

Pick one of these or look around your home and see what needs to be done. Try to see if you can do these acts of service when no one is watching. Be a “Mystery Servant”.

## Week 3

Service in the small things. The Practice of Service does not always mean just “Acts of Service.” There is service in the Small Things. What if you practiced the service of guarding what you say or post? Watching what you say or post about others is a deep and lasting service. This act of service will Build Up Your Community. Another act of service in the small things is the service of common courtesy. Saying “please” and “thank you” recognizes the other person’s value. These acts of Service in the small things might seem small, but will have a long lasting impact on

Service in other person’s life.

## Week 4

Service in your community and beyond. Where can you serve others at home or on a Mission Trip? Some of you went on YouthWorks or ASP this summer. That is a great week of service, but what do you do when you get back home? Look for places you can volunteer in your local community. Step out of your comfort zone as you look for places to serve. If you like animals, look into Our Pals Place. Check out the MUST Ministries website and see what needs they have and sponsor a collection for some of those items. Your help can be used in so many places.

Remember to offer your service as True Service expecting nothing in return.