

# SERVE THE CITY

# IDEAS FOR FAMILIES

## 1. DIY GRATITUDE CARDS OR THANK-YOU NOTES

**PROMPT:** Set up a “Thank You” card-making station where families can create and decorate cards to thank local heroes, such as first responders, teachers, or volunteers. Parents can write a message on behalf of younger children, and older kids can write their own notes.

**GOAL:** To teach kids gratitude and help them connect with local community helpers.

**ACTIVITY IDEAS:**

1. Have a box where families can drop their completed cards.
2. Include a drawing station where kids can make pictures for first responders or hospital workers.

## 2. COMMUNITY SERVICE STATIONS

**PROMPT:** Set up different “service stations” where families can engage in hands-on service activities. Each station should be simple and fun for kids of all ages. For example:

- Flower Planting Station: Families can plant flowers or small plants to beautify the area.
- Care Package Station: Create care packages for local shelters or elderly neighbors.

**GOAL:** To create an opportunity for everyone to serve in an easy and impactful way.

**ACTIVITY IDEAS:**

1. Younger kids can decorate bags or boxes for care packages, while older kids can help with packing.
2. Planting flowers and greenery is a family activity that engages all ages.

## 3. NEIGHBORHOOD TALENT SHOW

**PROMPT:** Set up different “service stations” where families can engage in hands-on service activities. Each station should be simple and fun for kids of all ages. For example: Encourage families to showcase their talents at the block party or park event! Invite kids and parents to perform songs, dances, skits, or play instruments. Everyone can participate, whether it’s a solo act or a group performance.

**GOAL:** To bring the community together through shared talent and create a fun and encouraging environment for all ages.

**ACTIVITY IDEAS:**

1. Kids can perform short skits or puppet shows.
2. Parents and kids can sing favorite songs or do dance routines.

## 4. FAMILY RELAY RACES WITH A TWIST

**PROMPT:** Organize a family-friendly relay race with a focus on teamwork and fun. The race could include simple activities like a three-legged race, egg-and-spoon relay, or a “bucket brigade” where families work together to pass water.

**GOAL:** To promote teamwork and get everyone active and involved.

**ACTIVITY IDEAS:**

1. Teams can be made up of parents and kids working together.
2. Add a fun twist by requiring teams to carry a “community care item” (like a food donation) across the finish line.

## 5. PICNIC OR POTLUCK WITH A PURPOSE

**PROMPT:** Host a neighborhood picnic or potluck, but with a twist: Ask each family to bring extra non-perishable food items or toiletries to donate to a local food pantry or shelter.

**GOAL:** To bring families together around food while supporting the local community.

**ACTIVITY IDEAS:**

1. Set up a “donation station” where families can drop off food donations.
2. Younger children can help organize the donations into boxes, while older children and parents can help load them for delivery.

## 6. "KINDNESS ROCKS" WITH SCRIPTURE

**PROMPT:** Set up a station where families can paint small rocks with messages of kindness or Bible verses that speak to God’s love and salvation (e.g., “For God so loved the world...” - John 3:16). After painting the rocks, participants can hide them around the neighborhood or park for others to find.

**GOAL:** To plant seeds of the gospel through Scripture while also spreading kindness in a fun and interactive way.

**ACTIVITY IDEAS:**

1. Provide paint, markers, and Bible verse templates.
2. Families can write short Bible verses on the rocks or simple Christian messages like “You are loved” or “God loves you.”
3. Encourage kids to explain the meaning of the verses to their neighbors if they find the rocks.

## 7. INTERACTIVE "JESUS LOVES ME" CRAFT STATION

**PROMPT:** Set up a craft station where families can create simple items like bracelets, keychains, or bookmarks with the message “Jesus Loves Me” or other Scripture-based phrases. As kids make their crafts, volunteers can share with them how Jesus loves everyone and wants to have a relationship with them.

**GOAL:** To help kids understand the gospel in a hands-on, creative way.

**ACTIVITY IDEAS:**

1. Provide beads or strings for making bracelets or necklaces that kids can give to friends or family members as reminders of Jesus’ love.
2. Share Bible verses about God’s love, like Romans 5:8 or 1 John 4:9, and encourage kids to reflect on these truths while crafting.

## 8. GOSPEL TREASURE HUNT

**PROMPT:** Create a treasure hunt that leads families on a journey through the park or neighborhood to discover pieces of the gospel message. Each clue could be tied to a Bible verse or story. The final “treasure” could be a simple gospel tract or a small gift with a Bible verse and a note of encouragement.

**GOAL:** To engage families in a fun, adventurous activity while teaching them about Jesus and the gospel.

**ACTIVITY IDEAS:**

1. Each clue could lead to a different part of the gospel: creation, Jesus’ love, salvation, and the promise of eternal life.
2. At each station, have a volunteer share a brief part of the gospel (e.g., explaining who Jesus is or why He came to earth).
3. Provide small prizes or notes of encouragement when the treasure is found.

## 9. JESUS LOVES YOU" BALLOON DROP WITH GOSPEL INVITATIONS

**PROMPT:** Have a balloon drop or a balloon toss, where each balloon contains a message of God's love or a Scripture verse about salvation. At the end of the event, offer to pray with families or invite them to attend a church service or study group.

**GOAL:** To share the love of Jesus in a fun, inviting way and offer opportunities for further connection.

**ACTIVITY IDEAS:**

1. Write Bible verses or gospel messages on the inside of balloons.
2. As balloons are released, families can pop them to find a Bible verse or message of hope.
3. Encourage parents and kids to talk about the message and how it applies to their lives.

## 10. PRAYING FOR OUR NEIGHBORS STATION

**PROMPT:** Create a space where families can come together to pray for their neighbors, the community, and for opportunities to share the love of Jesus. Provide prayer cards with prompts (e.g., "Pray for my neighbor to know God's love" or "Pray for peace in our neighborhood").

**GOAL:** To invite families to pray for one another and for the gospel to spread in their community.

**ACTIVITY IDEAS:**

1. Have a prayer wall where people can write prayer requests or pray for others.
2. Offer to pray with families at the event, encouraging them to pray for opportunities to share the gospel with neighbors.

## 11. BIBLE VERSE SCAVENGER HUNT

**PROMPT:** Create a scavenger hunt that includes finding Bible verses hidden around the park or neighborhood. Each verse should lead families to a new location where they can discover another part of the gospel story. The final "treasure" could include an invitation to a church event or a small Bible.

**GOAL:** To share the gospel through Scripture while engaging families in an exciting activity.

**ACTIVITY IDEAS:**

1. At each stop, children can read or hear a Bible verse, such as John 3:16, Romans 10:9, or Ephesians 2:8-9.
2. Include short explanations at each stop to help families understand the meaning behind the verse and how it relates to Jesus' message of salvation.

## 12. JESUS LOVES YOU WALL OR CHALK ART

**PROMPT:** Set up a large chalkboard or outdoor wall where families can write or draw their favorite Bible verse, draw pictures of Jesus, or share messages about God's love. Encourage families to add their own artistic touch while reflecting on how much Jesus loves them and the world.

**GOAL:** To create an interactive, public display of the gospel in the community that others can see and reflect on.

**ACTIVITY IDEAS:**

1. Provide chalk, markers, or posters for families to use.
2. Write "Jesus Loves You" prominently at the top to draw attention to the central message.
3. After the event, take a photo of the wall and share it with the community as a reminder of God's love.