

## FAMILIES SERVING JESUS

### WHY SERVE TOGETHER AS A FAMILY?

- ~ The joy of making a difference together
- ~ An opportunity to emphasize generosity and humility with our children
- ~ Increasing a child's sense of gratitude through exposure to those less fortunate

### WHY DON'T WE SERVE TOGETHER?

- ~ Never considered serving together
- ~ Schedules too full with "us" focused activities
- ~ Age of kids makes it challenging
- ~ Have not found the right opportunity

## YOU CAN START RIGHT HERE IN THE PINE BELT!

Mission opportunities for families are much closer than you might think! Use this brochure as a guide for developing a family missions plan and visit [hardysbc.net/family-missions](http://hardysbc.net/family-missions) for more information!



# HARDY STREET

KNOWING. GROWING. GOING.

## PREPARING TO SERVE

### I SPY

Take the family eat at a sit-down restaurant. Tell the children they are spies who must identify the best servant at the restaurant. Help them notice the waiters and waitresses. Ask children to point out clues that represent a servant's attitude, spirit and work. (i.e. Listening well, taking care of the needs of others, etc.)

### FROZEN ARMS

Tell the children that you magically froze their arms so they are not allowed to bend elbows or wrists. Place candy or cookies in the middle of the table and tell them they can each eat one. It will be impossible to serve themselves, and they must figure out how to serve one another to get the good stuff! Explain that we are called to serve those unable to serve themselves - but the real blessing comes back to us.

### READ TOGETHER

Read and discuss the following Scriptures:

**Mark 10:43-45**

Jesus described servants as "great".

**Philippians 2:5-7**

Jesus modeled humility and service.

**James 1:27**

Christians are to care for the needy.

### HARDY STREET BAPTIST CHURCH

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# FAMILY MISSIONS

## Families Serving Together



 KNOWING. GROWING. GOING.

## THE CALL IS CLEAR

Make Disciples!



## THE REWARDS ARE OUT OF THIS WORLD!

Do you want your family to grow closer together while serving God? Start a new tradition and go on a mission trip together!

## STEPS TO SERVICE

### Step #1 - Find a Shared Passion

Spend some time talking with your family or group about the things that interest and concern them. It will be more meaningful if you have a shared passion for the specific area of service. (Examples: If your family has an interest in poverty-stricken areas, choose Christian Services or Fieldhouse or the Salvation Army...

You may have a teenager that loves kids and it would be great to serve in the Lighthouse. Maybe you have interest in helping the Hope Choices Pregnancy Center.)

### SET EXPECTATIONS:

Discuss what you are going to do before you do it. If you have kids that will be serving the Elderly, then put your child more at ease by explaining that they may encounter odd sights, sounds and smells. If feeding the homeless, share why some people may not be able to take regular baths but we love them anyway. If helping children with special needs, explain why some can't respond "normally" to conversations, etc. Set the tone for a great time together!

### Step 2 - Pick Your Serving Opportunity

Hardy Street has Gospel-centered partners with service opportunities for your small group or family!

Stop by the "Go Center" or go to [hardysbc.net/mission-partnerships](http://hardysbc.net/mission-partnerships) for a complete list of our mission partnerships!

### Step 3 - Preparation Activities

Use one or more of the family mission prep activities on the back of the brochure!

### Step 4 - Focus While Serving Together

#### BUILD YOUR RELATIONSHIPS:

Serving together is an ideal time to get to know each other better. Take note of what different people do well. Intentionally encourage them and tell them you are proud of how they demonstrated a great attitude or area of strength.

#### GO DEEPER:

Work as a group to really invest in others' lives. Spend some time learning the names of those you serve. Look them in the eyes and find out their interests and their story. Allow those

you serve to learn about your family. This will allow your children to see those you are serving as valued individuals and possibly similar to your own family. This may also create great conversations later with your child.

#### BE SAFE:

While it is great to serve together and try new things, it's just as important to make sure that you are not putting anyone in your family or group in a risky situation. Keep a close eye on one another, especially children/teenagers. Parents might want to make sure that you are working directly with each other or that you can see your child at all times.

#### SERVING WITH YOUR SPOUSE:

Serving with your spouse can help create intimacy, allow you to learn more about one another, provide opportunities for greater communication, and model meaningful partnership.

### Step 5 - After Serving Together

Take time to debrief as a family! You'll find some great questions to consider at:

<http://hardysbc.net/after-you-serve>

### Step 6 - Share Your Experience

#### THIS STEP IS CRUCIAL!

The number one reason why people serve others is because they were inspired by someone else's story. Who knows, maybe God will use your story to inspire someone else to serve!

Please click on the link below and fill out a quick survey to share your story and give us valuable feedback on how to improve each serving experience.

Go to [hardysbc.net/service-survey](http://hardysbc.net/service-survey) and share your story with us!

