

Serving “here, near, and far”!

The closest mission-field you have is your family, church, school, and neighborhood. At these “here” places to serve, use your talents, time, and treasures to bless others. You will experience immeasurable joy in sharing the love of Christ through acts of kindness. Here are some ideas of how you can change lives through simple acts of kindness.

- Write prayers for each member of your family and place where you can see them
- Help siblings with homework or chores
- Do a prayer walk in your neighborhood and pray over each home -stay alert to feel/see God’s prompting on who, and how, you can serve
- Distribute Prayer Cards to neighbors for specific prayer requests (add the day and time you will pick them up)
- Early Morning Actions
 - On trash day, go out and put away your neighbor’s bins
 - Take trash bags with you and pick up trash from side of road, sidewalks, front yards and driveways (be safe!)
- Visit your grandparents, help with difficult chores and share about your life with them
- Pray over your church family, starting with the pastor, his family, church elders, leaders, and your congregation as a whole
- Take the opportunities offered to serve at your church (read, acolyte, set-up, take-down, VBS, etc.)
- Be involved in youth group activities -Bible studies, mission trips, community events, prayer groups
- Pray over your school - administrators, teachers, coaches, fellow students
- Write encouraging notes and give to your teachers
- Be a kind friend to those who have no friends

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Your city is full of “near” opportunities to love and serve God and people. No matter where you live, kindness can open doors to share God’s love with others. Through acts of kindness, opportunities to share the Good News of Jesus will arise. There is no need for a theology degree, simply a willing heart and eager hands. God will do the rest.

- Pray daily for your city, for its leaders, and for all who call it home
- Research which parts of your city are underserved and coordinate with others at your church/school to find the best ways to help
 - Donation drives for food, school supplies, diapers, mittens, socks, etc.
 - Call shelters, food pantries, soup kitchens, and children’s guidance centers about volunteering
- Take encouraging notes to your local police/firefighter stations
- Call local nursing homes or adult daycare centers for volunteer opportunities
- Help with city events meant to raise awareness of needs
- Coordinate with friends to help do yardwork for elderly homeowners in each others’ neighborhoods
- Walk parks, playgrounds, and running trails with a trash bag to pick up litter (be safe!)
- Coordinate with friends and offer free car washes -ask your church to open their parking lot for this event
- Buy water bottles and give them out to pedestrians
 - Add Gospel stickers to the bottles or your church’s address
- Buy a drink/meal for the person in line behind you
- Offer to walk dogs for elderly dog owners free or charge
- Volunteer at a Big Brothers Big Sisters chapter of your city or equivalent; mentor younger children

Serving “here, near, and far”!

The power of the Holy Spirit dwells in you. You have been uniquely created to be a driving force behind bringing Christ into a hurting world. The world is the “far” where you have the opportunity to “go and make disciples of all nations”, which is not a one-time shot, but the lifetime journey of every Christian, including you. You can prepare for those opportunities by serving the world in the following ways.

- Place a world map on your bedroom wall; each day, pray for a different part of the world
 - Pray for the Church
 - Pray for the oppressed and marginalized
 - Pray for the fatherless and the widows
 - Pray for unbelievers to come to know Jesus
- Research organizations dedicated to taking the Gospel out to the world (like YLM), and pray weekly for their labor, well-being, and success
- If your church supports a missionary/mission organization, pray and find how you can support them
- Pray Matthew 9:38 every day
- Pray for God to open opportunities to go “far” to share the Gospel
- When opportunities to go on mission trips arise, like to YLM, take them
- Be in Scripture as you learn about other cultures, religions, and nations
- Find others who are mission-hearted and cultivate friendships with prayer, Scripture, and service to others
- Talk with your youth leader and pastor on how to help your church become missional
- Reach out to the LCMS International Missions Office for a list of their missionaries
 - Write encouraging notes/letters and mail them out
- Support friends who are passionate about missions