

Serving my family community

You are a member of a very important community: **Your family**. Your family, both immediate and extended, is the first community into which you were born and with whom you begin to develop trust. However, it is also your family whom you first start to take for granted, so this seems like a very good place for you to begin to **make a positive contribution**.

'If a family were a boat, it would be a canoe that makes no progress unless everyone paddles.'

The way we treat people within our families determines the way we treat people outside our families. Over the next four lessons, we will be reflecting on our family life and thinking about the role we play in our family. You will be asked to think about what kind of a son and brother you are, what positive contributions you make to your family life and what you can do to improve your relationships with your parents and/or brothers and sisters.

When we have completed this unit in class, you will be expected to do 15 hours of Christian Service helping **YOUR NEIGHBOUR**. At least half of these hours need to be done with or for your **FAMILY**. This can include people in your extended family, like your grandparents. All hours of Service will be recorded in your Service Journal.

FOUR QUESTIONS:

Four questions I should ask myself each night:

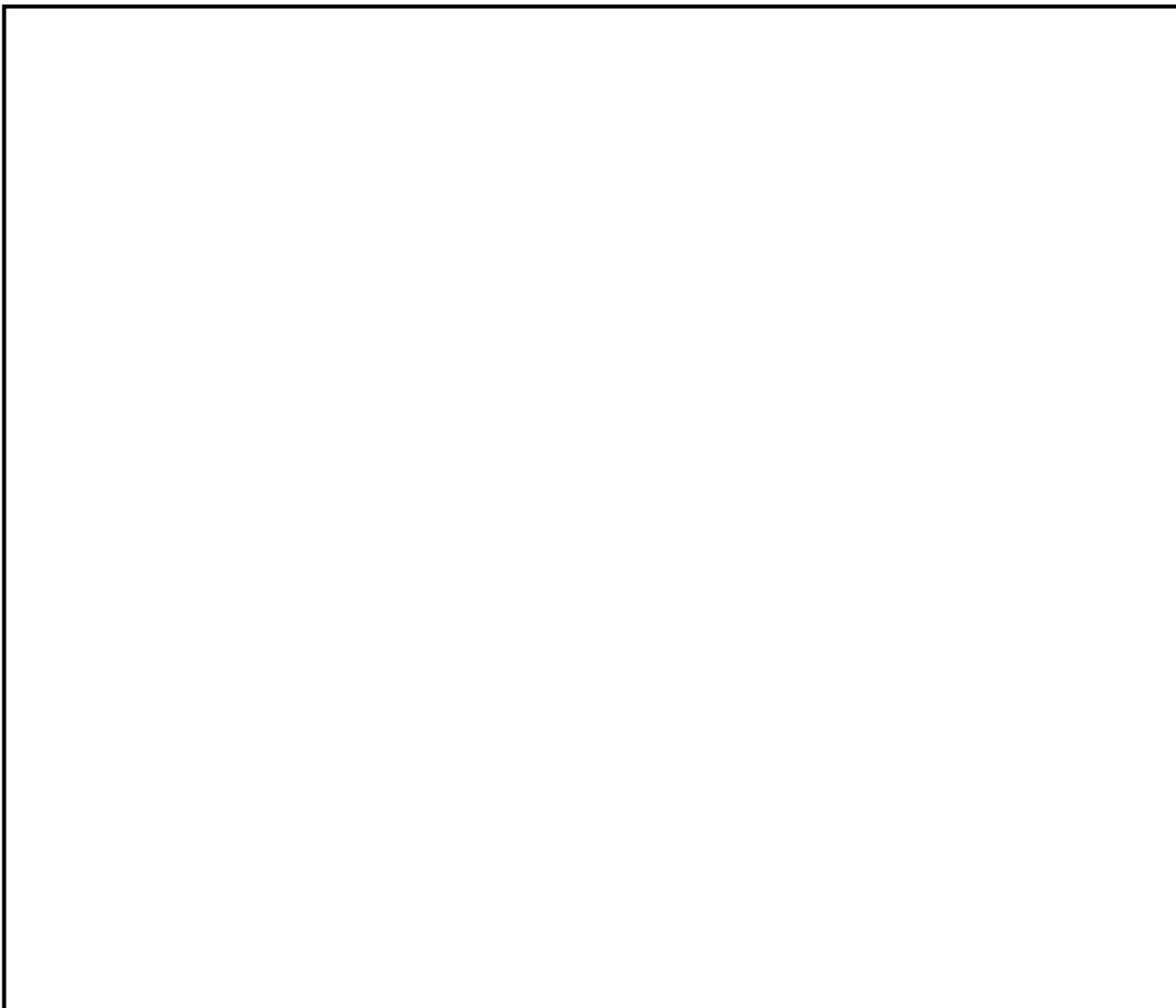
1. Was I easy to live with?
2. Was I pleasant to work with?
3. Did I help someone along the way?
4. Did I grow a bit today?

HOMEWORK: If you don't know what people in your family do during the day, find out and fill in the picture more fully.

Add together the hours each person spends at work and in home chores.

Draw a diagram which shows how each person contributes to family life by the work they do or the input they make.

You could do a pie chart or a graph to show this information.



Having completed this exercise, think about the following issues and describe what contribution you make to family life.

Scripture passages for reflection

Write a one-sentence summary of each passage. Tell of a specific way in which it relates to your own service.

Jesus responding to people in need

Mark's Gospel

Chapter 1:21-28

Chapter 2:1-5

Chapter 3:1-5

Chapter 4:35-41

Chapter 5:21-42

Chapter 8:1-10

After reading these stories in class, choose one of the readings and answer the following questions:

How was Jesus made aware of the need that was present in the situation?

What did Jesus do to help the person in need?

Why did Jesus act in this way?

What did Jesus say to the people he helped?

Serving our families

Knowing now what you do about your family, you should be able to more clearly identify what each person most needs to make their life fulfilling and satisfying. Think about what you could do to help meet those needs.

Write the names of your family on the chart below. In the space, describe the needs of each person and then make a list of the things you can do to serve that person.

Name:	Name:	Name:
Their needs are:	Their needs are:	Their needs are:
Things I can do to serve:	Things I can do to serve:	Things I can do to serve:
Name:	Name:	Name:
Their needs are:	Their needs are:	Their needs are:
Things I can do to serve:	Things I can do to serve:	Things I can do to serve:

HOMEWORK: Over the coming weekend, make a commitment to take on action to do service in your family. Remember it must be something you choose to do without being asked; it must respond to the needs of your family and you should not expect any reward for your actions.