

10 Spiritual Practices for Service Projects

Faith-Building Through Service



The following principles should guide service projects:

- **Affirm Agency** - Every human being, regardless of their social location, has been created by God with wisdom, will, and spiritual gifts.
- **Embody Solidarity** - Service projects are an opportunity to move beyond separatist charity into solidarity. We serve from an understanding that we belong to one another through our Creator.
- **See Christ** - Remember that God is already at work in these communities.

Through our commitment in the Baptismal Covenant to proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ and to seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself, we offer the following Faith-Building through Service practices.

Before Starting a Service Project

1. **Listen for God's Call in the Practice** - Why are you called to this service project? How does it serve others? How does it help you to grow in faith and love of God?
2. **Include Diverse Voices** - Highlight and engage diverse voices in leadership. Invite voices and lenses formed by the communities you hope to serve to the planning table.
3. **Let Scripture Be Your Guide** - Which scripture passage helps you to connect and define the project? Print it at the top of the project description.
4. **Build Community Through Prayer** - Start and end planning meetings with prayer.
5. **Share the Good News** - Ensure that the guiding scripture is included in all communications regarding the project.

During the Service Project

6. **Pray** - Begin and end your project with prayer. Offer grace before a meal if it is served.
7. **Engage** - Offer a meditation on your guiding Scripture before the start of the service project.
8. **Reflect** - on God's presence. Have participants reflect on how they encountered God/saw God at work in the event and within the participants. Incorporate reflection time into the event.

After the Service Project

9. **Give Thanks** - Gather participants in person or online to share stories about partnering with God in your Service Project. Lift prayers of gratitude for their good work!
10. **Listen** - to where God may be calling for your continued partnership and service.