

SERVICE BRINGS CHANGE

Service has the power to transform people, communities, and even the way we see the world. But what exactly does it change? Is it just the people we help, or do we change too? Today, we'll explore how service isn't just about giving—it's about growing together. True service isn't just charity, where one person gives and another receives. Instead, service is about standing with others, working together, and making lasting change.



CONVERSATION STARTER: When was a time you learned something that completely changed how you saw a person or situation?

KNOWLEDGE CHANGES WHAT WE SEE

KEY OBJECTIVES

- Explore how gaining new knowledge shifts our view of people, communities, and issues.
- Understand the shift from charity to service learning—why true service is about learning and growing with others, not just giving to them.

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- Pencils or pens
- Paper

- Divide participants into small groups of three to five.
 - Provide each group with a writing utensil and a sheet of paper.
 - Set a two-minute timer. Have groups list as many ways as they can to learn about a person or topic.
 - After time is up, have groups share their answers. What methods did they come up with? Which ones do they believe are the best for truly understanding someone?
 - Guide the discussion:
 - Direct interaction (talking, asking questions)
 - Experiencing their perspective (walking in their shoes)
 - Connect to service: How does serving help us see people or situations differently?
- Introduce Service Learning:**
- Ask: What's the difference between giving someone food and helping them learn how to grow their own food?

- When we serve, are we just helping, or are we partnering with people to create lasting change?
- Explain: Explain that service learning goes beyond volunteering or charity. It's about using knowledge and skills to identify a need, plan an action, serve, and reflect. It leads to meaningful change for both you and the community.
- Service learning shifts how we see:
 - Ourselves
 - Others
 - Leadership
 - Problem-solving

FACILITATION TIPS

Some participants may find abstract thinking challenging. Use real-life examples (e.g., a food drive, tutoring, or disaster relief efforts) to make concepts clearer and more relatable.

REFLECTION

- How does helping others change the way we see them?
- How can working on a service project change our perspective on a problem or community need?
- What's the difference between just helping and truly learning from the experience?

APPLICATIONS

- How can service help us see ourselves and others in a new way?
- How can we use what we've learned to be better leaders and problem-solvers?
- What can we do to make our service projects more meaningful and impactful?
- Dive Deeper: Think about a time when someone truly listened to you and tried to understand your experience. How did that change your relationship? How can we apply that same idea to the way we serve others?

CHECK UNDERSTANDING

Do youth understand that shifting from charity to service learning creates a stronger, more lasting impact?

KEY TAKEAWAY: Service isn't just about helping—it's about standing with others. True service means learning from people, collaborating, and creating real change—not just temporary fixes. The more we connect with others, the more our perspectives grow and expand.

