

Service Learning Planning Guide

Preparation: Listen

(1) ***Listen and learn from stories.*** How will we listen to and learn from our community to identify priorities, needs, concerns, and opportunities?

(2) ***Listen to the story of Scripture.*** To center our group's experience in God's Word, what biblical stories or themes can we explore that relate to our service experience?

(3) ***Listen to each other.*** How will we build community by learning more about each other's gifts, passions, stories, and expectations?

(4) ***Make a plan.*** What preparations do we need to make? (Consider schedule, supplies, transportation, and other logistics.)

Action: Engage

(1) ***Engage in service.*** How will we ensure that everyone finds a meaningful role and can actively participate?

(2) ***Honor stories.*** How will we give attention to others' stories in our service? How will we respect, honor, and celebrate the stories we encounter?

(3) ***Our story is God's story.*** How will we seek and identify God's presence during the experience?

(4) **Question practices.** What practices might we question in order to more fully be present as servants, partners, and allies as we engage in service with and among others?

Reflection: Learn

(1) **Debrief the experience.** What are specific ways we can provide for personal and group reflection on the service experience?

(2) **Impact of stories.** How can we best learn from the stories and experiences we have encountered? How might this experience shape our future attitudes and behaviors?

(3) **Return to Scripture.** How can we return to the story of Scripture to bring deeper meaning to this experience? How might Scripture be reinterpreted given the group's experience?

Celebration: Share

(1) **Worship and celebrate.** How might we celebrate our experience through Scripture, prayer, and spiritual practices?

(2) **Tell the story.** How can we share the experience with others, such that they can also be brought into the story of our experience?

This guide adapts the service learning model developed by the Service And Learning Leadership Team (SALLT) Project at Trinity Lutheran College. For more information, resources, videos, and links, visit www.sallt.org.