



to all nations
live the life you were made for

Servant Evangelism

Expressing God's love in practical ways

'The Basics'

Servant Evangelism is a fast, fun and easy approach to showing God's love in simple, practical ways with no strings attached.

It is a simple, low risk and low cost way to reach your community.

Absolutely anyone can do it - you don't need to be a pastor, a leader or a theologian.

You can do Servant Evangelism as a church, in a group, or even on your own. In fact, a group of just 2 or 3 can reach hundreds of people with a touch of God's love in a very short time.

There are no tracts or sermons, just a free gift and a card explaining that this simple act is to show God's love.

Through totally unconditional acts of kindness and service, Servant Evangelism plants seeds and prepares hearts to receive God's message.

Servant Evangelism challenges preconceptions and stereotypes of God, Christianity and the Church in ways that have a deep and lasting impact on both the served *and* the server.

On one level, Servant Evangelism meets basic material needs, but on a deeper level it begins to meet the need buried deep inside all of us - the need to be loved. It becomes a master key that unlocks even the most heavily fortified hearts.

'The Jesus Principles'

Jesus lived a life of service, but He didn't only lead us by example, He also instructed and encouraged us to live a life of kindness and service.

He taught that the key to greatness lies in service (Matthew 20:26-27), and that when we fail to serve the needs of those around us, we fail to serve Him (Matthew 25:41-46).

Jesus gave us a model for living - He wants us to have a lifestyle based in service. He left us in no doubt that to follow Him requires a heart of service, stating that He 'did not come to be served, but to serve' (Matthew 20:28).

He didn't demand grand gestures. In fact, He said that even giving someone who is thirsty 'a cold cup of water' is a sign of true discipleship (Matthew 10:42).

As followers of Jesus, we are called to preach the good news to the poor, free the prisoners, the burdened and the battered, to make the blind see (Luke 4:18-19), and to make disciples of all nations (Matthew 28:19).

One way that we can fulfil this commission is by serving others with practical demonstrations of God's love, backing up our words with actions (1 John 3:18).

‘Does it work?’

The simple answer is ‘YES’. We have seen first hand how God meets material, spiritual and emotional needs through these simple acts. Here are some testimonies from outreach volunteers:

‘We gave some milk to a guy who asked us “How did you know I didn’t have any milk?” We didn’t!’

‘We took batteries door to door. A lady opened her door holding a crying baby. When we offered her some batteries she was shocked. She told us her baby wouldn’t sleep without a soother, and the soother’s batteries had just run out!’

‘I rang the doorbell, a dog started barking, kids started screaming and a guy started yelling. He opened the door and shouted “What?”. I held up a bag of fresh vegetables and told him it was to show him God loves him. Immediately, his anger went, and with a stunned expression, he said “Wow, that’s really cool!” ’.

‘As we washed one guy’s car for free, he sat and watched in disbelief, saying “I have never seen anything like this. There is a God, after all” ’.

But it isn’t just the served who are impacted. Servant Evangelism has a deep and transforming effect on the server, too. By serving someone in this way, whether on your own, in a small group, or as a church, you will see the powerful way in which God can use you to touch your community in a way that has lasting effects.

‘Some Examples’

Servant Evangelism is great fun whether you are doing it on your own or in a group.

It may be as simple as holding an umbrella for someone fixing a car in the rain, taking a sick neighbour some flowers, or offering a colleague a lift to work when their car is in for repair.

You may choose to do an act of kindness or service in a group - perhaps with a couple of friends, with your small group or maybe with your whole church. For example...

... acts of kindness could include giving away cold soft drinks on a hot day, chocolate bars, newspapers or other small items at road junctions, in local shopping areas, or in local hospitals, police stations or fire stations

... you may show kindness to a needy area by going door-to-door with gifts of food parcels, clothing or household items, such as light bulbs

... you may do specific acts of service such as picking up litter, washing cars, cleaning windows, painting fences or sweeping driveways. Or, you could offer to clean the toilet facilities in local businesses - that really raises a few eyebrows!

It really is that simple! In fact, opportunities to serve are generally limited only by your imagination. Why not visit our website, or www.servantevangelism.com for more ideas?