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Upgrades

Learning to Serve

Helping others is a great way to show preteens how they can change the world and promote self-esteem. When a child feels a sense of worth and a reason for being, he is more likely to live a rich and fulfilled life.

Encourage your students to reach out to their community. Provide resources and encouragement regarding putting others first. When kids take the focus off of themselves and place the focus on others; life becomes more enriching.

Serving Opportunities within the Community

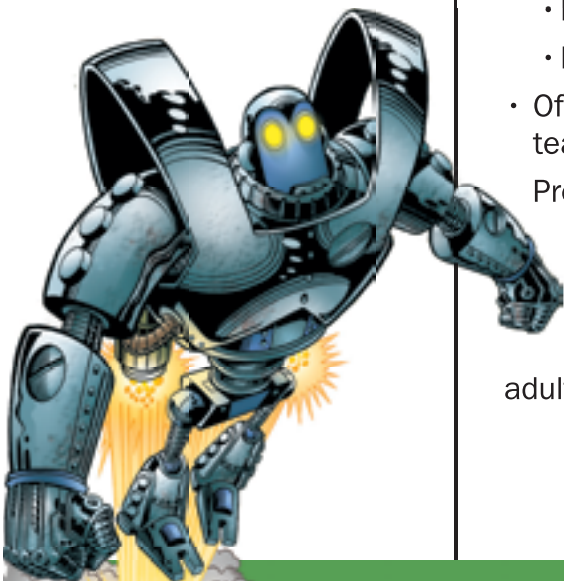
- Write cards of encouragement to military personnel
- Spend an hour at an elderly home
- Provide free babysitting to single moms
- Offer to clean the church or its property
- Help serve food at an area shelter
- Help raise money or collect goods for an area shelter
- Write cards of encouragement to area teachers, pastors, etc.

Serving Opportunities at Home

- Help clean around the house
- Determine to give your best at school
- Offer to help a sibling or neighbor with an activity (practice basketball, teach a child to tie his shoes or ride his bike, etc.)

Preteens want to help; they want to feel needed. We need to step in and give children the tools to become servants. Children will only learn servanthood by watching and helping others.

By instilling children with self-confidence and direction, we can help them become active, caring adults. Isn't that what it's all about?



Holsom Comics Discussion Questions

After the kids have read [Holsom Comics Issue 7](#), ask these questions to spark discussions about serving others.

- How could Ashley, Dillon, and Lucy have shown servanthood in the opening scene? (They could have helped Jordan instead of laughing and making jokes.)
- How does Lucy reveal her attitude toward servanthood with her statement, “My parents grounded me for weeks, and when they finally let me out, it was only to help the youth group pick up trash. But I guess we’re doing some good...”? (She doesn’t seem to enjoy it much herself even though she feels it’s important and worthwhile.)
- What does Dillon reveal about his character when he says, “I’m looking forward to adding some of our own trash to the road later tonight...”? (He cares more about his own pleasure than the community’s needs.)
- What’s Jorge’s response to the fact that Shelby is missing out on her church’s community project? (He dismisses it as unimportant.)
- How does Shelby show servanthood toward her family? (When the storm gets worse, her first concern is to help her family with the barn animals.)

Holsom Activity Idea

- Ask your students to write down names of people in their lives who have needs (single moms, elderly neighbors, etc.)
- Encourage your students to help at least one name on their list during the next few weeks. An act of kindness doesn’t have to be lengthy or expensive. Servanthood should be an act of the heart.

