

Below you will find a list of possible service/missional practices for your Small Group to consider. This list will be updated automatically as new opportunities become available. Also, be sure to reference the book *100 Great Ideas for SALTi Small Groups* for an additional 20 suggestions. If any of these ideas are intriguing to your group, please contact Ryan Porche ([rporche@southwest.org](mailto:rporche@southwest.org) / 806-352-5647) and he will connect you to the right person for more information and coordination needs.

### **Service Ideas Within Your Small Group**

- If your group has young children, consider taking two weeks and allow one set of parents to go out on a date while the remaining adults provide free childcare. Then, switch for the next week.
- Assist your own group members with needs (home improvement, technology, car maintenance).
- Write notes of encouragement to the children / teenagers of your group.
- Consider a rite-of-passage time of encouragement and prayer when children in your group begin middle school, high school, and college.

### **Service Ideas Within Our Church Family**

- Volunteer with our Children's, Student, or College Ministries.
- Serve with our Fellowship Committee by assisting with a special event.
- Write cards of encouragement for Ministry Leaders, Church Staff, Elders, and/or Missionaries.
- Visit our shut-ins.
- Assist the Single Parent Ministry.
- Volunteer to assist the Hali Project.
- Visit those in the hospital.
- Assist with the Funeral Ministry.
- Create, staff, and market a weekly or monthly "visitor lunch" for first-time guests from our worship assemblies.
- Inquire about ways to assist our widows and widowers.
- Provide a day of inexpensive oil changes and basic car maintenance for our church family.
- Provide an evening of free babysitting at the church building for young parents to have a date. I've seen groups do this during the holiday season to provide opportunities for parents to do Christmas shopping.
- Inquire about serving with the Family Service Center.
- Look for opportunities with the Food Pantry.
- Coordinate with our College and Students Ministry leaders to prepare and send care packages to our college students near and far.
- Consider "adopting a section" of our auditorium during worship gatherings. Be intentional to consistently sit in the section, follow-up with those you notice to be missing, and connect with visitors.

### **Service Ideas Within Our Local Community**

- Storybridge
- Write cards of encouragement to local school teachers
- Investigate opportunities to serve the Opportunity School
- Serving the neighbors around our church building
- Thanksgiving Meal for Gene Howe Elementary (or a family you know in need)
- Bonham Middle School
- Help with the School Supplies Drive
- Meals on Wheels
- Connect with our Local Rainbow Rooms (Child Protective Services) to assist with needs.

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- Adopt a local laundry mat as a way to serve the poor
- Prepare and serve a meal for families at the Ronald McDonald House.
- Inquire about opportunities with the High Plains Children's Home.
- Inquire about possibilities with the Bible Chair of West Texas A&M.
- Provide transportation for foreign refugees (such as airport runs and medical appointments)
- Mentor a refugee child by spending 2 hours a week (this can be done in groups)
- National Multiple Sclerosis Society Awareness / Fundraising Events
  - Saturday Cookouts at Sam's Club (Grill & Sell Burgers to shoppers)
  - Annual Beef-athon Fundraiser (take phone orders for beef!)
  - Annual Biking Event (sponsor/operate a rest stop)
- Volunteer to assist with Snack Packs.
- Investigate joining Big Brothers Big Sisters or the Boys' & Girls' Club.
- Partner with Amarillo Brown Bag to provide sack meals for homeless in our city
- Partner with Amarillo Housing First
- Coordinate with a child athlete (and his/her coach) to attend an upcoming sporting event and provide water & snacks for players, coaches, and families.
- Volunteer at a local school (cleaning up the physical grounds, special improvement projects, tutoring). Be sure to listen carefully to what the school's leadership identifies as helpful—don't force something they don't really need. Perhaps your group could "adopt" one school in particular and be on call for arising needs.
- Throw a simple block party for the neighborhood where your Small Group meets. Prepare a meal, provide some games, and use it as a non-threatening way to meet new people.
- If appropriate, consider hosting a party for the co-workers of someone in your group—especially if they are in public service.
- Find a local charity in need of volunteers for a big event (24 hours in the Canyon, 5K runs, fundraisers, etc.).
- Adopt the nearest Fire Station and inquire about ways you could serve.
- Clean up a public park.
- Inquire about local opportunities for teaching English as a second language. (Refugee Services of Texas and/or local schools)
- Deliver Snack Baskets to the hospitals.
- Serve a meal / lead a devotional with Faith City Missions.
- Visit Senior Living Facilities (Such as Brookdale or Heart Is)
- Work with Senior Citizens at the new Legacy Townsquare.
- Serve families visiting inmates at The Hope Welcome Center.

### **Service Ideas Within Our Nation & World**

- Consider a short-term mission trip for your entire group:
  - Dry Bones Ministry, Denver CO
  - Carpenter's Church, Lubbock, TX
- Send care packages to our missionaries for birthdays, anniversaries, and holidays.
- Mobilize your group to be prepared for disaster relief response (fires, tornadoes, etc.). Organize supplies and volunteers who could respond quickly.
- Inquire about opportunities with Milton Jones and the Christian Relief Fund (worldwide impact for children in poverty headquartered in Amarillo).
- Sponsor a child through the Christian Relief Fund.