

SERVING IDEAS THROUGH THE PHASES MIDDLE SCHOOL

- **Have a Marvel movie night.** (Or if action heroes aren't your thing, pick another movie character who lives out heroic qualities.) Watch the movie together and choose a character trait to be your family theme for the year.
- **Together, brainstorm a place** where your middle schooler can sponsor or provide for another kid their age. Then brainstorm a way to make the sponsorship completely anonymous.
- **Connect your kid** with adults who love to serve. Make a list of adults and ask those adults to meet with your kid and share what they do.
- **Talk to a children's pastor** at a local church about volunteer opportunities for your kid's age and encourage your child to volunteer. What are your child's gifts? What do they love to do? Choose an environment where it's safe to learn and grow. You may have to volunteer with them until they're able to serve on their own.
- **Talk to your kid about students** who seem to be left out at school. What are some ways they can serve those who are left out? What are some ways they can make them feel important?
- **Clean out your house and garage together.** Sort through things to be donated and things to be sold. Have a yard sale and invest the money in a worthy cause—something your kid is passionate about.
- **Sponsor the purchase of a farm animal** through an organization that provides them to communities and families in need. What kid wouldn't want to say, "I bought a cow today?"
- **Talk to a local youth pastor** or your teen's small group leader about mission opportunities. Discuss with your child what they would like to do and what it might take to get there.
- **Choose a team** that your teenager isn't a member of and spend a season serving them. Think: snacks after a practice, prayer cards for travel bags, Bible gifts, making a pre-game meal, or even washing the team jerseys for the parents.
- **Make some sack lunches** and take them to a park where people without permanent housing stay. Offer them to people on an afternoon when you have time to learn some names and stories. (It might help to do this together with other people who have done something similar.)

