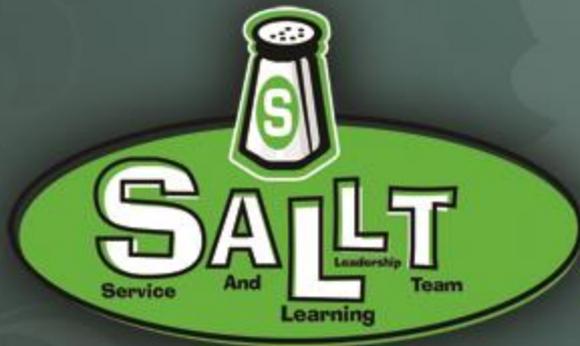


SERVICE LEARNING: **Creating Meaningful Service and Mission Experiences with Youth**



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INTRODUCTION





Personal stories of service

Share a memorable service experience you've had and what made it meaningful for you.

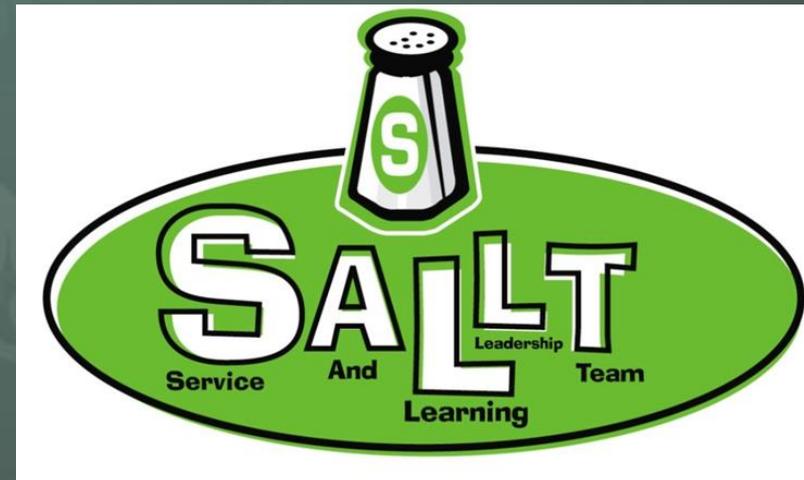
Or, consider where you first saw or witnessed someone engaged in service.



Service And Learning Leadership Team (SALLT)

Purpose: To support youth leaders in creating meaningful service experiences with youth

- Resources
- Training
- Research





Come Follow Me (video)

What to watch for:

What was the impact of service on young people in the video?

“For Youth: Come Follow Me” (video)

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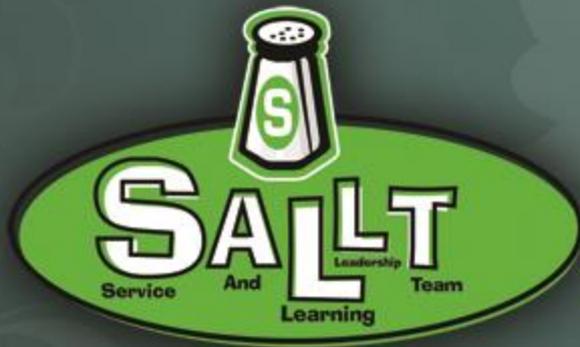
Reflection question

What are the things you'd hope a teenager would say after participating in a service project or mission trip?

Hopefully not:

- It was hot.
- Our service project was stupid.
- I'm glad I don't live here.
- We did so much for them.
- I am so blessed.
- I am so fortunate.

OUTCOMES OF SERVICE LEARNING





Service learning outcomes

The overarching outcome:

LIFE TRANSFORMATION

*In Christ, there is
a new Creation!*

- 2 Corinthians 5:17



compassion

community

advocacy

leadership

**lifelong
servanthood**

**exploration of
vocation**

**life
transformation**



Service learning outcomes

#1 – Compassion

Youth will be called to be mature Christians who hold a deep and hopeful sense of compassion for the world and all God's people.



And who is my neighbor?

Luke 10:29



Service learning outcomes

#2 – Community

Youth will be drawn into community, including those they serve and those with whom they serve.



Love one another.

John 15:12



Service learning outcomes

#3 – Advocacy

Youth will work for justice, becoming advocates for the urgent needs of the world.



Do justice, love kindness, walk humbly with God. Micah 6:8



Service learning outcomes

#4 – Lifelong Servanthood

Youth will become naturally and joyfully engaged in lifelong service to others.



We each have gifts.

Romans 12:6



Service learning outcomes

#5 – Leadership

Youth will desire to engage in leadership of others and will use their gifts of leadership in service to others.



Serve one another.

1 Peter 4:10



Service learning outcomes

#6 – Exploration of Vocation

Youth will explore God's call in their life and deepen their sense of vocation.



Here am I; send me!

Isaiah 6:8



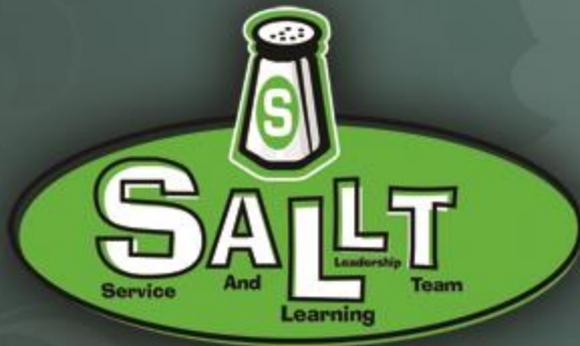
Service learning outcomes

How might we achieve
these six outcomes?

Through a process called

SERVICE LEARNING

SERVICE LEARNING: THE PROCESS





Defining service learning

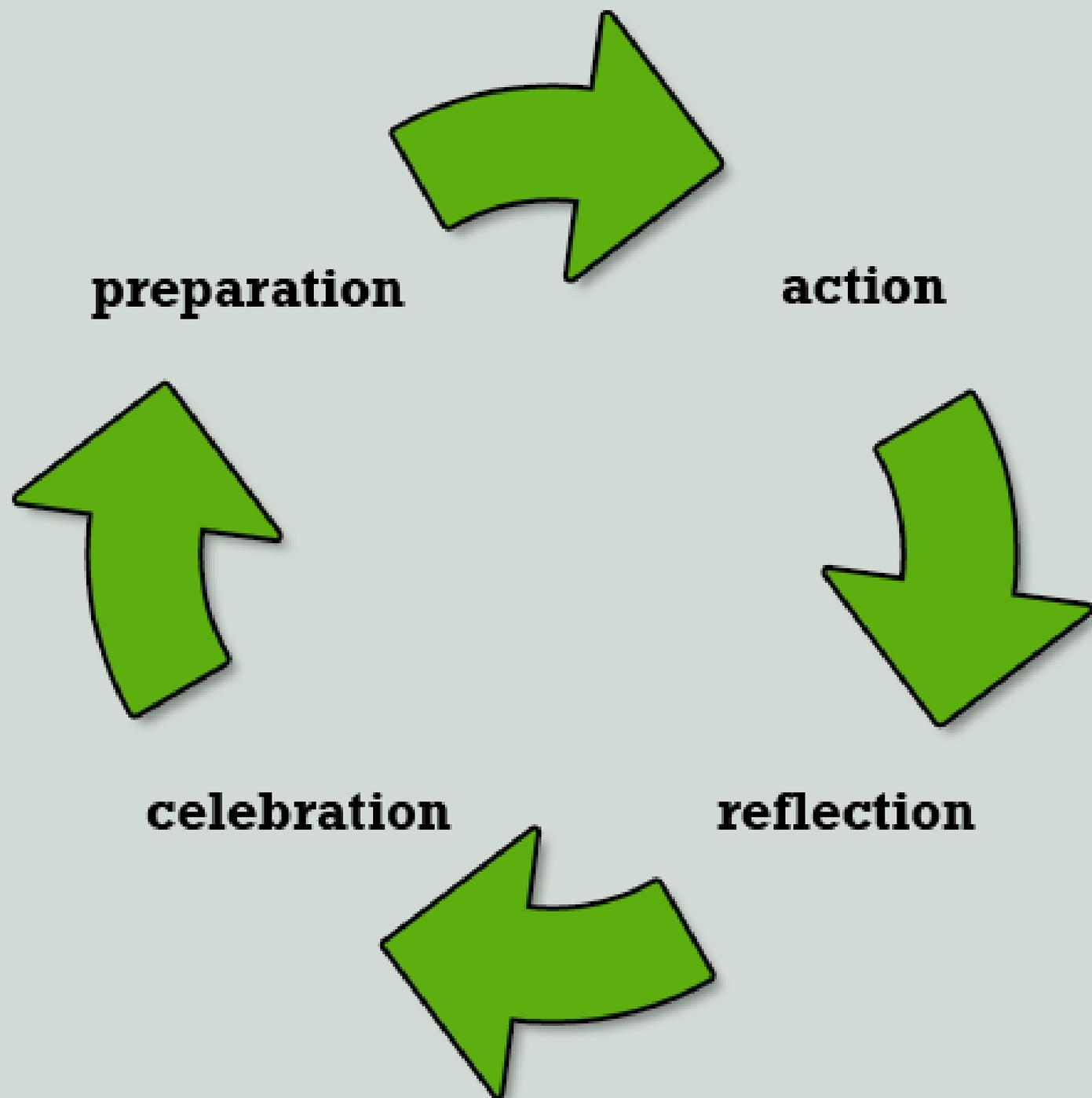
An **intentional** experiential learning **process** that utilizes hands-on **service** and **reflective thinking** to provide richness and meaning to service experiences.



Defining service learning

- Intentional
- Process
- Service
- Reflective thinking

A four-
step
service
learning
process





Adding Flavor to Life (video)

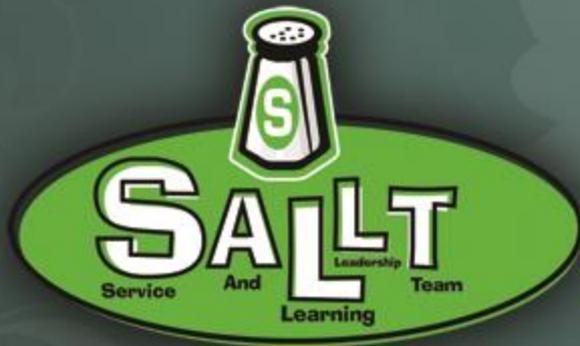
What to watch for:

Specific components of each step that contribute to a meaningful service experience.

“For Adults: Service Learning – Adding Flavor to Life” (video)

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USING THE FOUR-STEP SERVICE LEARNING PROCESS





Step 1: Preparation – Get Ready

Common practice:

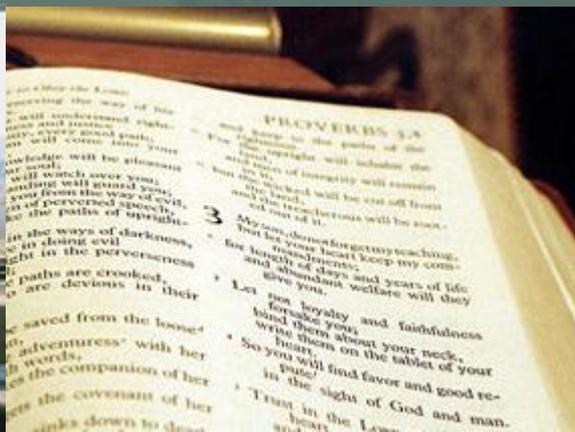
- Organize fundraisers
- Collect paperwork
- Gather supplies
- Make travel arrangements
- Pack up and get ready



Step 1: Preparation

Add flavor to the experience:

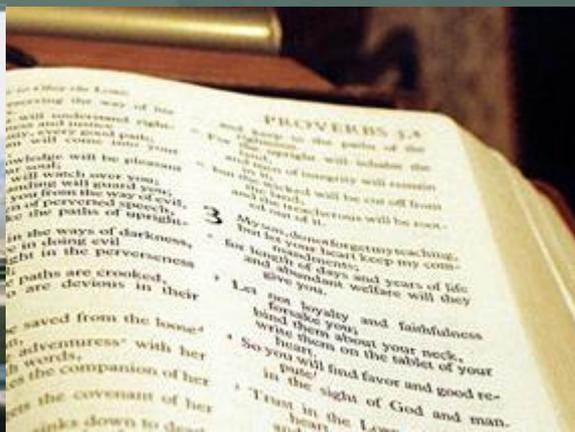
- Understand the unique needs and issues of the context
- Build relationships





Step 1: Preparation

- Engage in relevant Bible study
- Form a group covenant
- Share expectations
- Hold a sending service





Step 2: Action – Engage in Service

Common practice:

- Show up
- Serve
- Go home





Step 2: Action

Add flavor to the experience:

- Get a meaningful orientation
- Learn about others, the organization, a community





Step 2: Action

- Name blessings received
- Start the reflection process ...
- Understand the critical role of adults in shaping the experience





Step 3: Reflection – Learn and Grow

Common practice:

- Experience ends with little or no follow up or processing
- Perhaps talk over 2-3 questions





Step 3: Reflection

- Going too shallow?
- Going too deep?
- Only using group conversation as the reflection method?





Step 3: Reflection

Add flavor to the experience:

- Begin reflection onsite
- Reflect as a group later
- Provide for individual reflection





Step 3: Reflection

- Provide reflection opportunities that invite creativity and involve multiple learning styles



Creative reflection ideas:

paint a picture

write poetry

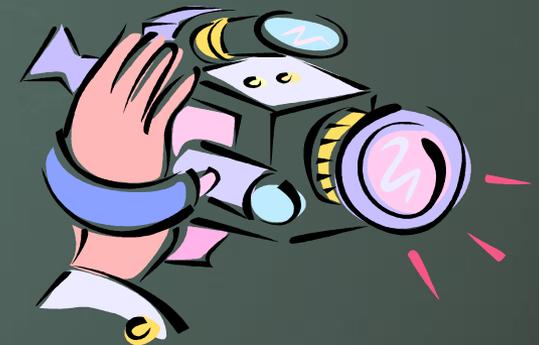
compose music

produce a video

capture photographs

create a collage

compile a scrapbook



doodle

make a flyer

create a blog

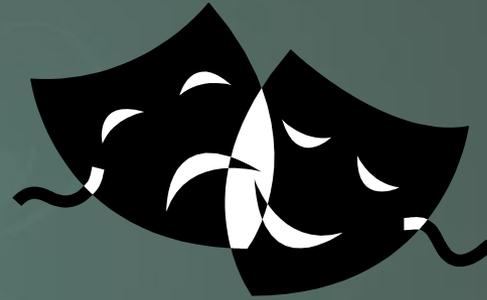
stage a debate

write a story

create a role play

write a Letter to the Editor

lead an awareness workshop

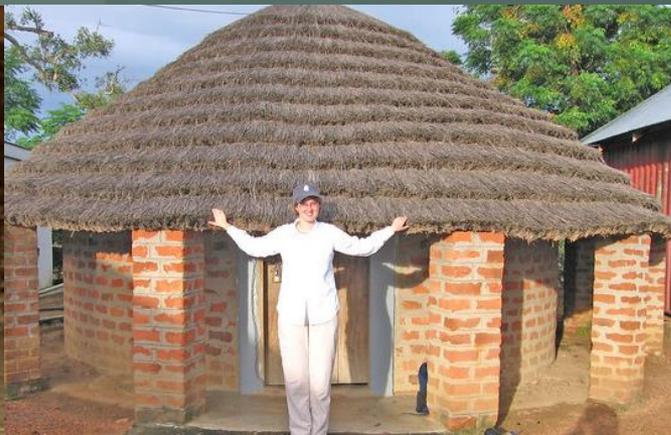




Step 4: Celebration – Tell the Story

Common practice:

- Little or no follow up with youth
- Little or no sharing with others
- Little or no evaluation

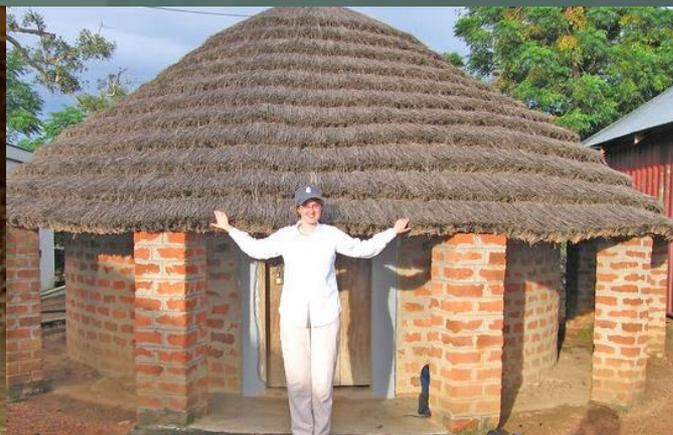




Step 4: Celebration

Add flavor to the experience:

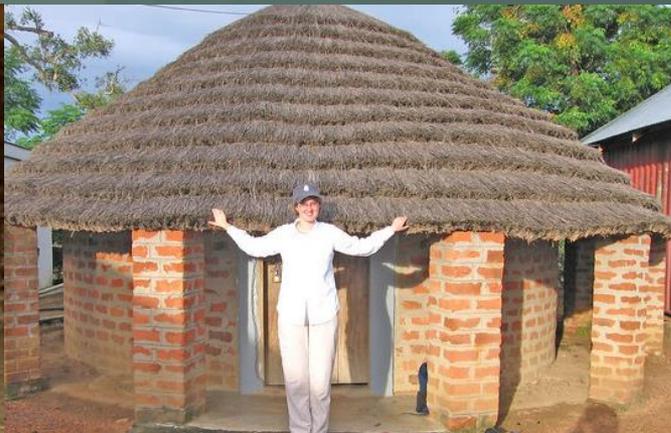
- Being welcomed home (if a trip)
- Continue the reflection process
- Evaluate the experience





Step 4: Celebration

- Honor gifts and talents
- Share stories with others
- Lead teaching/training sessions
- Consider future service

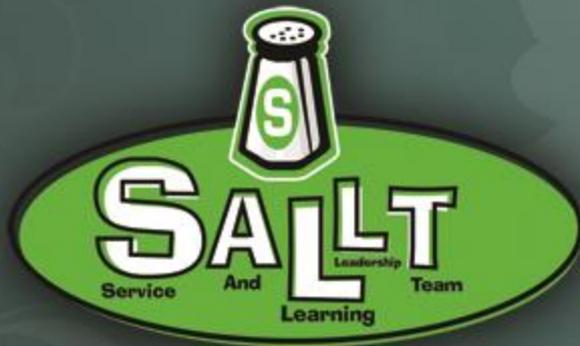




Reflection question

To what extent might this four-step service learning process add value to service and mission experiences?

A CLOSER LOOK AT THE ACTION-REFLECTION CYCLE





Quality reflection

The key to quality reflection is to understand how humans draw meaning from concrete experiences.



What did I just experience?



**How do I feel? What
am I thinking about?**



**How will this
apply to my life?**

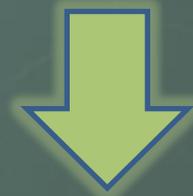
What did I just
experience?

WHAT ?



How do I feel?
What am I
thinking about?

SO WHAT ?



How will this
apply to my
life?

NOW WHAT ?



What? questions

Invite participants to describe, without judgment or evaluation, their observations and experiences.

WHAT ? → **SO WHAT ?** → **NOW WHAT ?**



What? examples

- What happened today?
- What did I experience?
- What role did I play?
- Describe an interaction you had with another person.



So What? questions

Invite participants to reflect on their experience, including an analysis of their thoughts and feelings.

WHAT ? → **SO WHAT ?** → **NOW WHAT ?**



So What? examples

- What emotions did I experience?
- What am I thinking about?
- What confuses or interests me?
- How was the experience different than I anticipated?
- What did I learn about the people (or place) I encountered?



Now What? questions

Invite participants to consider the implications of the experience and how their learning might influence changes in their lives.

WHAT ? → **SO WHAT ?** → **NOW WHAT ?**



Now What? examples

- What changes might I make in light of this experience?
- How might God be calling me?
- What do I want to learn more about?
- How can I share this experience and my learning with others?



Using What? So What? Now What? questions

- Plan ahead by choosing 2-4 questions for each step
- Allow participants to choose which questions to respond to
- Allow for creative expression (photos, video, poetry, etc.)



Using What? So What? Now What? questions

- Affirm all thoughtful responses
- Resist suggesting answers
(other than your own
experience)



Final thought about reflection

*We don't learn from experience
... We learn from reflection on
experience.*

- John Dewey, early 20th century educational philosopher

THE IMPACT OF SERVICE LEARNING





Example: 40 youth and adults
building houses in Mexico

The old way:

- Buy tools. Rent van.
- Go to Mexico. Build houses.
- Show sponsors a slide show.
Serve tacos.

Using the service learning model:

- Talk about housing issues for Mexican migrant families.
- Learn about Latino culture.
- Learn simple Spanish phrases.
- Build houses. Interact. Reflect.
- Create a blog, song, or video.
- Tell others about the experience.
- Consider your next opportunity.



Example: 12 teens serving
Saturday lunch at a shelter

Possible responses:

- I'm glad I don't live like that.
- Who'd eat this anyways?
- They're not very grateful.

Besides, beggars can't be
choosers.

Using the service learning model, responses might be:

- Homeless people aren't that different than me.
- Christ calls us to serve others.
- Why are there homeless people in our community?
- What else can we do to combat hunger in our hometown?



Service learning as a way to fulfill baptismal promises

Through service and mission experiences, young people can:

- Learn to trust God,
- Proclaim Christ through word and deed,
- Care for others and the world God made,
- And work for justice and peace.

– *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*



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