

## The Shape of Service

Learning how to serve others begins by serving in the family. Families and meals come in many shapes. This activity will explore how we serve one another through the basic skill of setting the table. Through service we show we care for our family.

### For

Young Family

### Season

Spring

### Needed

Place setting of tableware, including plate, bowl, fork, spoon, napkin (paper or cloth), glass, placemat, scissors, scrap paper



### Prepare in Advance

Cut out a triangle, circle, square, and rectangle from any scrap paper. Be sure there is one per member of the family. Cut out extra shapes if there are more than four in you family group.

### Activity Plan

Early churches met in homes and were called “house churches”. House churches brought together several families to learn and serve together. Gather around any table. A dining table, a coffee table, or a card table will work.

1. Say this prayer aloud to begin.

*As we gather, God, help us to think about how we serve each other in our family. Help us to think about ways we can serve daily. Amen.*

2. Pass out shapes. Take turns doing the following
  - Name the shape and describe the shape, i.e. “I have a circle. It goes round and round.”
  - Name something in God’s world that is the same shape, i.e. “A wheel is a circle.”
3. Place the tableware in the center of the table. Talk about the shape of each piece, i.e. “The napkin is a square.”
4. Make a place setting using all the materials. Remember, the fork is on the left of the plate and the spoon is on the right of the plate.
5. Work together to set your eating table for the next meal. Talk about the shapes as you set the table, i.e. “the circle plate goes in the middle” or “The square napkin is folded into a triangle and goes under the fork.”
6. Take your learning into your community. Volunteer as a family to set the table for a community dinner or potluck. Remember service has many shapes!