



Expanding Your Impact

Inviting Others In

The idea: The fastest way to do more good isn't to work harder yourself, it's to bring other people with you. Most people who don't serve simply were never asked, or didn't want to show up alone. A single invitation can turn one helper into many.

"A candle loses nothing by lighting another candle." — James Keller

"If you want to lift yourself up, lift up someone else." — Booker T. Washington

"Do your little bit of good where you are; it's those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world." — Desmond Tutu

FACILITATOR NOTES

Time. about 60–90 minutes total. Works in a classroom, youth group, or club. No materials or cost required.

Service today. Pick one option in Serve below and set it up before you begin.

Warm-up (10 minutes)

FACILITATOR NOTES

Keep this quick, short answers are great. Read the questions together.

- Think of something good you do that a friend would enjoy too. Have you ever invited them?
- What makes you more likely to try something new, a flyer, or a friend saying "come with me"?
- Why do you think people who want to help often never get around to it?
- What stops someone from showing up to serve alone, and how does an invitation fix that?

Learn (10–20 minutes)

Here's a quiet truth about service: most people who don't do it aren't selfish, they just never got asked, or the idea of walking into something new alone felt like too much. That's it. The barrier usually isn't caring; it's the first step. Which means one of the most powerful things you can do is also one of the simplest: invite someone. When you personally ask a friend, a sibling, a classmate, to come serve with you, and make it easy to say yes, you remove both barriers at once. They've been asked, and they won't be going alone. Inviting others is multiplication: your two hands become four, then eight. One person who's good at bringing others in can end up doing more good than they ever could on their own.

A good invitation usually:

- Is personal: a real ask from you, not a flyer or a group post.
- Is specific: a real day, a real task, "come do this with me."
- Makes it easy: you handle the details and go together, so they never face it alone.

A closer look. A kid signs up to pack food boxes one Saturday and, on a whim, texts five friends: “Come do this with me, it’ll be fun, I’ll save you a spot.” Three show up. They have a blast, and the next month each of them brings someone. By spring, what started as one person at a folding table is a regular crew of fifteen, and the food bank is packing twice as many boxes. None of it came from a flyer or a speech. It happened because one person asked.

Why inviting matters so much. Think about how you actually started most things you love, a sport, a club, a hobby. Odds are someone brought you in. Service works the same way: invitations, not announcements, are what get people off the couch. A personal ask says two things a flyer never can, that you thought of them, and that they won’t be alone. That’s usually all it takes. And the math is hard to beat: if you serve, you help; if you serve and bring three friends, you’ve quadrupled your impact, and any one of those friends might bring three more. Learning to invite well might be the single most useful service skill there is, because it’s the one that multiplies everything else.

How to invite well. Inviting is a skill, and a few habits make people far more likely to say yes. You can:

- Ask in person: a direct, personal invitation beats any flyer or group message.
- Be specific: name the day, the place, and what you’ll do, since vague invitations are easy to dodge.
- Make it easy: offer a ride, save them a spot, go together, so showing up takes no courage.
- Ask anyway: plenty of people who seem too busy or too cool will say yes if you actually ask.

Keep these in mind.

- **People wait to be asked.** Most non-servers aren’t unwilling; they just never got a personal invitation.
- **Going together beats going alone.** Take away the fear of showing up solo and most people will come.
- **Inviting is multiplying.** Your impact, plus everyone you bring, plus everyone they bring. That’s how service grows.
- **A no isn’t the end.** Ask again another time, and keep asking others. Plenty of yeses are one invitation away.

Serve (30–60 minutes)

Today you’ll put this into practice in a real service activity. Here are ways to do it:

Option A — Make the ask *(no cost, works in any setting)*

Pick one service activity you’re going to do, then personally invite one person to come with you. Make it specific and easy: tell them the day, what you’ll do, and that you’ll go together. Then actually bring them. Turning your one act of service into two, just by asking, is the whole skill in miniature, and all it takes is the nerve to ask.

Option B — Bring a crew *(low cost, a bit more effort)*

Don’t stop at one. Invite a whole group, friends, classmates, teammates, family, to a service project, and do the work that makes yes easy: pick the date, handle sign-ups, sort out rides, and tell everyone exactly

what to expect. A crowd you personally pulled together gets far more done, and shows you how much one inviter can multiply.

Option C — Become the one who brings people *(more effort; ongoing recruiting)*

Make inviting a habit, not a one-time thing. Set up a simple way to keep bringing people in, a standing “bring a friend” rule for your group, a recurring invite for each project, a sign-up you keep passing around, so your service crew keeps growing. The person who consistently brings others in quietly becomes the engine the whole group runs on.

Before you go (all options): Invite people to join service through your group, your mentor, or an established organization, and serve together in public, supervised settings. Make sure anyone you bring has a parent's okay, and let your mentor help with rides, sign-ups, and logistics.

Reflect (10 minutes)

FACILITATOR NOTES

After serving, talk through a few of these together, then give everyone quiet time to write.

Who did you invite, and what did you say? Did they come?

What felt hard about asking? What made it easier?

How much more got done because you brought someone, versus going alone?

Who's one more person you could invite next time, and how will you ask?

Then finish one or both sentences:

One person I'm going to invite to serve with me is...

The specific thing I'll invite them to is...
