



## Safety Concerns

Seed service comes in all shapes and sizes. Most service opportunities are fairly easy and very safe. At the same time, we know that accidents can happen, and we want to avoid them. Please think about your own safety and the safety of those in your group. Be aware of the kind of service you'll be tackling and the potential safety hazards involved... and then deliberately seek to prevent accidents.

Depending on the kind of work you do, safety concerns may include:

- Clothing types: not too loose
- Jewelry: remove rings, watches, necklaces, earrings
- Safety glasses (provided by Sojourn, if necessary)
- Gloves: latex, leather, or cloth (provided by Sojourn, if necessary)
- Masks
- Closed shoes
- Appropriate training (lifting with legs, cutting away from body, etc)
- Checking with accompanying "experts" (Red Cross, etc.)

Also, while we encourage everyone to participate in seed service, each person chooses whether to participate or not. Each person participating should sign a liability release form that will cover all their seed service. Email [mercy@sojournchurch](mailto:mercy@sojournchurch) if you do not have a release form.

## Prayer

We may feel as though we're working hard and making a lot of good things happen. But ultimately, all that we are doing comes from our Lord Jesus Christ. And "Unless the Lord builds the house, its builders labor in vain" (Psalm 127:1 – We encourage you to read the whole Psalm). We depend on Him; we *must* recognize this by turning to Jesus in prayer. We need His provision for:

- Our safety
- Team camaraderie
- Successful service completion without delays
- The glory of Jesus
- Good relationships with outside organizations, communities, and unbelievers
- Our hearts: for us to take responsibility for follow-up
- Our time: for us to give our time with joy
- Unbelievers: for them to know Christ
- God's reputation: for others recognize God's work through us among them
- Other specific needs that arise within each service opportunity

For additional information or assistance, contact [mercy@sojournchurch.com](mailto:mercy@sojournchurch.com)



## Tips for Building a Relationship

If our ultimate goal is merely to clean streets, repair gutters, or serve good food, our goal is too low. Instead, we should be seeking something eternal even as we do good work that is temporary. We should be seeking to draw the people we encounter into the family of God. This means we need to love them and care enough about them to build relationships with them. Some of the building blocks for a relationship include:

- Working with excellence
- Exhibiting patience when obstacles make service frustrating
- Initiating casual conversation about shared interests
- Initiating casual conversation about families (start with your own)
- Inviting others to events (either Sojourn events or interest-related, e.g. sports, music, comedy, etc.)
- Inviting others to our homes (watch movies, play games... Having a meal is good, but don't just have a meal and then sit around doing nothing)
- Being aware of sensitivities (religious, political, etc.) and not "stepping on toes". It's ok to discuss differences, but it's not ok to offer pork to Muslims, call political opponents foolish, and that sort of thing.

## Follow Up

Most of follow-up is relationship-building, as described above. Essentially, do life together with the people you meet to the degree that they allow it. Build friendships. Learn to love them, and their spiritual needs will become apparent, pressing, and urgent as you do.

- What do you know about God? From the Bible? From your journey as a Christian? Be prepared to share it with those you encounter.
- Be humble. You may be pressed to answer questions you don't know the answers to. Say so. But use these questions to further your relationships.
- Start small. Assume nothing. People may be unfamiliar with the most basic Bible stories. On the other hand, don't treat people as though they are biblically illiterate; they may know the Word well.
- You don't have to prove God exists in a single, four-hour conversation.
- Trust God. You are not the only Christian God is using to reach the world. Do your part, and trust Jesus to do His part.
- If you personally want further training in evangelism, express your feelings to Sojourn leadership. We want you to be equipped for this ministry.

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