

*Teaching the Bible with
Children, Youth and Families*

**UNIT 2:
Service and
Learning**

-Session 6-

Bonus: What Does the Research Tell Us?
Conversations with Eugene Roehlkepartain

Select Learning

FACILITATOR GUIDE

Bonus: What Does the Research Tell Us? Conversations with Eugene Roehlkepartain

Gathering Table

Place on the gathering table an open Bible and some objects that may be used in a service project: a small shovel, work gloves, a rake, or any other objects that might bring to mind a service or mission project.

1. Welcome, Introductions and Opening Prayer

2. Introduce the Video – Guests: Dr. David Ellingson and Mark Jackson, Trinity Lutheran College, Everett, Washington, Eugene Roelkepartain, acting president of Search Institute, Linda Staats, Assistant to the Bishop of the Rocky Mountain Synod-ELCA.

Let the participants know that the handout provides a place to take notes as they listen to the conversation and exchange with Gene Roelkepartain.

3. Watch the Video

4. Discussion

(The questions posed to Gene in the video are listed below, along with the time you will find Gene addressing this question. For the follow-up discussion, the facilitator or participants will need to choose among the multiple topics to fit the group's interest and the time allowed.)

What is at the heart of your unwavering focus on service learning? (1:36)

When you look back over the last 20 plus years what have been the key learnings?
Challenges? (3:18)

How was the strategy of service-learning (preparation, action, reflection, affirmation/celebration) developed and named? (4:59)

Does it ring true for you that there has been too much emphasis on the 'doing' of service-learning? (6:40)

Can you say a little bit more about what happens when we don't reflect? (9:36)

Do you have some examples of missed opportunities for teaching in service and learning experiences? (10:54)

With whom do we need to reflect? How does that happen at home? Are there specific questions that help the conversation go deeper? (13:03)

What do we need to be aware of when we are supporting the formation of faith in children and families around service-learning? (15:27)

What have you found is the relationship between service and the development of faith across cultures and faiths? (18:20)

When you think about service-learning and the Bible what does that stir up in you? (20:00)

Dabar: to do and to be (20:46)

Have you found any connection between young people's involvement in service-learning and a sense of God's call? A sense of vocation? (21:30)

If you could give advice to parents and grandparents, caring adults, what would you say? (23:26)

Could you say a little more about the difference in thinking between a ‘youth group’ doing a (service) project, versus the involvement of multiple generations? (25:28)

Could you reflect on the role of story and story telling in service-learning? (27:13)

Sometimes we go into a community thinking we are going to solve their needs. Isn't there more to it than that? (28:33)

How can we enhance or deepen the connection between the mountain top experience and our daily lives? (30:39)

6. Making it My Own—Take it Home

As Mark & Gene shared in the video, three questions (What? So What? Now What?) can focus and deepen reflection and help young people internalize an active-learning, Bible-centered experience. With one other person, share your reflections on these questions:

- a. What?** What (if anything) from today's conversation did you find interesting?

- b. So What?** In what ways has this session challenged your thinking about approaches to service-learning?

- c. Now What?** How do you intend to use what you've learned in this session in your day-to-day life or within your congregation? (For example: how you read the Bible, interact with others, or lead service projects and mission trips at your church.)

7. Closing

Accompanying this Session

- Participant Guide
- Bibliography

PARTICIPANT GUIDE

Bonus: What Does the Research Tell Us? Conversations with Eugene Roehlkepartain

1. Welcome, Introductions and Opening Prayer

2. Prepare to Watch the Video – Guests: Dr. David Ellingson, Mark Jackson, Eugene Roehlkepartain, and Linda Staats.

Use this handout to take notes on the many questions addressed to Gene.

3. Watch the Video

4. Discussion

What is at the heart of your unwavering focus on service-learning?

When you look back over the last 20 plus years what have been the key learnings?
Challenges?

How was the strategy of service-learning (preparation, action, reflection, affirmation/celebration) developed and named?

Does it ring true for you that there has been too much emphasis on the ‘doing’ of service learning?

Can you say a little bit more about what happens when we don’t reflect?

Do you have some examples of missed opportunities for teaching in service and learning experiences?

With whom do we need to reflect? How does that happen at home? Are there specific questions that help the conversation go deeper?

What do we need to be aware of when we are supporting the formation of faith with children and families around service learning?

What have you found is the relationship between service and the development of faith across cultures and faiths?

When you think about service-learning and the Bible what does that stir up in you?

Dabar: to do and to be

Have you found any connection between young people's involvement in service-learning and a sense of God's call? A sense of vocation?

If you could give advice to parents and grandparents, caring adults, what would you say?

Could you say a little more about the difference in thinking between a 'youth group' doing a (service) project versus the involvement of multiple generations?

Could you reflect on the role of story and story telling in service-learning?

Sometimes we go into a community thinking we are going to solve their needs. Isn't there more to it than that?

How can we enhance or deepen the connection between the mountain top experience and our daily lives?

5. Making it My Own—Take it Home

This is your time to review and plan for next steps:

- a. **What?** What (if anything) from today's conversation did you find interesting?
- b. **So What?** In what ways has this session challenged your thinking about approaches to service-learning?
- c. **Now What?** How do you intend to use what you've learned in this session in your day-to-day life or within your congregation? (For example: how you read the Bible, interact with others, or lead service projects or mission trips at your church.)

7. Closing

Bonus: What Does the Research Tell Us? Conversations with Eugene Roehlkepartain

Bio and Resources

Eugene C. Roehlkepartain is Acting President and CEO of Search Institute, a Minneapolis-based nonprofit organization. <http://www.search-institute.org/> Gene leads a staff of 35 professionals who engage in research, product and service development and community capacity building that focus on the healthy development of children, youth, families, and communities. Roehlkepartain assumed the role of Acting President and CEO, October 2011. He previously served as Executive Vice President under the leadership of the late Peter L. Benson.

Roehlkepartain is widely recognized as an expert in child, youth, and family development in community contexts. Particular areas of interest include **service learning**, family strengths, community supports for families and youth, spiritual development, youth philanthropy, and linking youth development with financial literacy. Because of his childhood in Africa, he has led Search Institute's growing work to support culturally appropriate asset-building efforts around the world.

Roehlkepartain worked closely with the late Dr. Peter L. Benson for 20 years in guiding the Institute's work on [Developmental Assets](#), the growth of community transformation and, most recently, the introduction of the theory and research on [youth thriving](#), with the central idea of the power of young people's "[sparks](#)" or passions.

Selected Resources Related to Service and Learning

Benson, P. L., & Roehlkepartain, E. C. (1993). *Beyond Leaf Raking: Learning to Serve/Serving to Learn*. Nashville: Abingdon Press.

Benson, P. L., & Roehlkepartain, E. C. (2011). When 'good enough' isn't really good enough: Aiming for the 'best' for all young people. In T. P. Jackson (Ed.). *The best love of the child: Being loved and being taught to love as the first human right* (pp. 19 – 46). Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans.

Inspired to Serve: An Online Tool Kit for Youth-Led Interfaith Action (developed by Search Institute and Interfaith Youth Core) <http://inspiredtoserve.org/>

Learn, Serve, Succeed: Tools and Techniques for Youth Service-Learning, Kate McPherson (Search Institute, 2011) https://www.searchinstitute.org/Learn_Serve_Succeed_p/0395-w.htm

Roehlkepartain, E. C. (2009). *Exploring Your Community's Strengths and Hopes: A Step-by-Step Guide for A Community Listening Project*. Minneapolis, MN: Search Institute.

Roehlkepartain, E.C. (2009) *Service-Learning in Community-Based Organizations: A Practical Guide to Starting and Sustaining High-Quality Programs*, (National Service-Learning Clearinghouse). <http://www.servicelearning.org/topic/demographics-settings/faith-based>

Roehlkepartain, E. C., Bright, T., Margolis-Rupp, B., & Nelson, L. I. (2000). *An Asset Builder's Guide to Service-learning*. Minneapolis, MN: Search Institute.

Roehlkepartain, E. C., Naftali, E. D., & Musegades, L. (2000). *Growing up Generous: Engaging Youth in Giving and Serving*. Bethesda, MD: Alban Institute.