It's easy to say we should serve the poor, but how do we tangibly show kids what serving the poor looks like in our everyday lives? Below are some ideas to incorporate into your Sunday school, children's church, and small groups to encourage children to serve Jesus by serving the poor.

**Packing Thanksgiving Boxes**
With a little coordination, you can use one of your kid's meeting times to pack Thanksgiving boxes to be delivered for Thanksgiving Dinner. Connect with your outreach pastor to collect all the necessary items for Thanksgiving boxes, then organize the supplies by type around the room. Have the kids place the correct quantity and types of items in the boxes, and VOILA! The boxes are packed and the kids had fun doing it!

**Greeting Cards for Nursing Homes**
Thinking about others is hard to do! Creating cards for a local nursing home reminds kids that there are people that we don't even see, that God loves just as much as he loves us! Grab some art supplies and let the kids create cards letting older folks know that they are special and loved!

**Give What You Have**
Sometimes it's hard to think of how we can give and serve others. But, all Jesus asks us of is to give what we have (see the story of the Widow's Mite Mark 12: 41-44) Collect tangible items during the 4 weeks leading up to Advent like money, canned goods, winter coats, or items for your church's food pantry.

**Bags for the Homeless**
Reaching out to the least of these can sometimes feel challenging. Do you give money? How will they spend it? Creating bags full of supplies that the homeless community needs is a great way to teach kids to give to those who have less than us. Collect items such as socks, toothpaste, toothbrushes, granola bars, handi-wipes, etc for several weeks. Then have the children pack the items in gallon zipper bags to keep in the car. When they drive by someone who is in need, they simply pass them the bag with a smile.

**Kindness Rocks**
Collect small stones, grab some tempera paint and watch your kids get creative with painting words of kindness. You might even grab some paint pens, to make writing kind words on the rocks easier. Then, have the kids "hide" the rocks in plain sight all around town. Choosing to serve, even we are not recognized is a great skill to learn!