



Of Service: Week 3 May 3rd

Getting Started

1. What does being of Service mean

Scripture

Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. 1Peter 4:10

Digging Deeper

We were made to build the church (Ephesians 4:11-13). God made each one of with unique talents, personalities and skill sets. And when we ask Jesus into our lives, we're given at least one spiritual gift. We get the most joy and make the biggest difference when we use our God-given talents, gifts and abilities to build the church (Ephesians 4:14-16).

8 Blessings We Experience By Serving Others:

1. Serving allows us to discover and develop our spiritual gifts.

1 Corinthians 12 compares the church to a human body. Just like our bodies are made of many parts serving specific functions, the church is made up of people with different skills and abilities. Alone these pieces aren't very useful, but together we create something beautiful.

2. Serving allows us to experience miracles.

In John 2, Jesus was at a wedding and the couple was running out of wine for its guests. He tells the servants to fill several big jars to the brim. When they served the water to the guests, it was wine! The guests never knew what happened; the servants were the ones who witnessed the miracle. The same is true for us when we serve.

3. Serving allows us to experience the joy and peace that comes from obedience.

1 Peter 4:10-11 says, "Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms... so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ." Serving is a form of worship, a way to express gratitude for what Jesus has done for us, and to share the love and grace we've been given.

4. Serving helps us to be more like Jesus.

We shift our focus off of ourselves onto others through serving. We begin to see others as Jesus sees them. And we see Jesus IN others (Matthew 25:40).

5. Serving surrounds us with other Christians who can help us follow Jesus.

When we're working side by side with other people, a bond inevitably forms. This was part of God's plan for how the church is supposed to work. That's why Hebrews 10:24-25 instructs us to "spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together... but encouraging one another."

6. Serving increases our faith.

As we move out of our comfort zones, God increases our faith by revealing new potential — in ourselves and in His Church. When we see what He can do when His power is at work within us, we begin looking for the doors He's opening rather than pushing our way through the one's He's closed (Ephesians 3:20).

7. Serving allows us to experience God's presence in new ways.

Encouragement and healing go hand in hand. As we encourage others and they find healing, we're encouraged. It's the reason so many people who go on

mission trips say they came home feeling like they got more than they gave.

8. Serving is good for your soul.

Studies have shown that volunteering is so good for the mind and body that it can ease symptoms of stress and depression. Tapping into our gifts and passions builds self-confidence, energy, and strength. Serving others can also be the best distraction from our own worries.

<https://newspring.cc/articles/8-blessings-we-get-from-serving>

Application

We have been raised as boys in a culture of being told we were special during parent teacher conferences and were given participation trophies by our Pee Wee football coach. Our self-righteousness is so vast it is not common to have one Social media application to show everyone the articles and videos we feel people should see, one to share pictures of what we have done and another to show videos of what we are doing. This has become what's normal and I don't think we should accept that. We have become overly self-focused.

As men we are designed to be of service and by realizing this it allows us to refocus our purpose. As we strive to become more like Jesus we must examine how focused he himself was on the service to all of those he encountered. This was the focus of his ministry and where ever he went we see example of him serving those he encountered. Placing the focus back upon how we can serve those around us and what we can do to make a change in this world.

We all have jobs and careers built on years of hard work. Some of them might be focused in ministry and others might not. Being of service to others can look many ways in the office or in our daily wonderings. We are presented many opportunities on a daily basis that it becomes easy to overlook when we are focused on ourselves and what we have going on. If we raise up our eyes to look into our full potential and use the gifts we have been graciously given to change the world around us. The application of your unique gifts is what something we should all spend time soaking in thought about. We each have not been given equal grace and within us there is something so great and so special.

Next Steps

What does living a life of service in our modern world look like?

How can you be of service to those around you?

What are the constraints that are preventing you from doing so?