

# SERVE

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SEE A NEED » FILL A NEED

## 2024 Leader Guide



# Welcome to SERVE 2024

Welcome to our SERVE 2024 Community Group Series! We are so thankful for you as a CG leader, and we're excited to introduce a great opportunity for everyone at c|Life, especially our CGs, called SERVE! We hope this will become one of your favorite things we do each year. SERVE is an exciting and impactful time dedicated to serving our communities. This year, SERVE will take place from Saturday, April 27 through Sunday, May 5, so mark your calendar!

The vision of SERVE is for us, the local church, to go into our communities and love our neighbors by seeing a need, filling a need. Hundreds of people will take on practical projects, and through these acts of service, we hope people's hearts will be opened to the love of Jesus.

This study is designed to help deepen our understanding of servanthood, cultivate love for others, translate our faith into action, and appreciate the impact of service.

We want your group to choose a SERVE project based on the talents and resources within your group. This guide will help generate ideas as you make plans for a successful SERVE week. Your SERVE project may take just one morning or afternoon to complete, or it may take a few days. We look forward to helping when you dream, choose, and execute your project! We are here to help you in any way and to serve alongside you.

As we dive into this study, our prayer is that you will not only gain a deeper biblical understanding of service but also feel inspired to put these teachings into practice. We believe that through our collective efforts, we can make a significant difference in our community and beyond.

We are so grateful for your dedication and leadership. Your role in guiding these discussions and activities is invaluable. We encourage you to approach each session with an open heart, ready to learn, share, and grow alongside your group members.

Remember, service is more than just an action; it's a way of life. As we serve others, we reflect God's love and grace to the world. Let's embrace this opportunity with enthusiasm and allow God's light to shine through us.

In Christ's Love,  
c|Life Pastors

# A Guide for Community Group Leaders

As you embark on leading your group through the SERVE 2024 series, this guide is designed to be a comprehensive resource to aid you in facilitating meaningful and impactful discussions as well as helping your group plan and execute a service project in your community during the SERVE week. Here's how to make the most of it:

### **Familiarize Yourself with the Material.**

Before each session, take some time to read through the week's content. This includes the scripture readings, teaching points, discussion questions, and the challenge for the week.

### **Lead with Prayer.**

Begin each session with prayer. Ask for the Holy Spirit's guidance as you dive into the Word and discuss its application.

### **Facilitate Open Discussion.**

Use the discussion questions as a starting point to encourage open and thoughtful dialogue. Remember, there are no 'right' answers; the goal is to foster a deeper understanding and personal application of the scriptures. ***NOTE: You're not expected to cover every discussion question each week. Feel free to skip around the material as needed. Don't forget to leave enough time to discuss and your group's project!***

### **Encourage Personal Reflection.**

The "Make it Personal" section is designed for individual reflection. Give group members time to contemplate and share how the week's theme applies to their lives.

**Use the Leader Lifter Video.** The provided video link for each week is a valuable resource. It is designed specifically to help you as a leader think about the material. It is coaching for you!

## **Guide the Group in the Weekly Challenge.**

This section is designed to help you plan a SERVE project with your group. You should spend a significant part of your CG meeting working on this part. At the end of the meeting, participants have a space to write down their to-do list before the next meeting. Do your best to make sure everyone has something they can do to contribute to help make your SERVE project a success. Don't forget to check out the SERVE page on our website ([clifec.com/serve](http://clifec.com/serve)). If you have any questions about registering your project, please email us at [serve@clifec.com](mailto:serve@clifec.com).

## **Adapt to Your Group's Needs.**

Feel free to tailor the discussions and activities to fit your group's unique dynamics. The guide is a framework, but the Holy Spirit can lead you in the direction your group needs to go.

## **Keep a Focus on Service.**

The overarching theme of this series is service. Keep steering the conversation towards how your group can serve the community and embody Christ's love through action. Remember the end goal of this study is that you and your CG will plan and execute a SERVE project.

## **End with Prayer.**

Conclude each session with prayer, focusing on the week's theme, any shared concerns, and prayers for the service project you are planning and implementing.

## **Provide Feedback.**

We value your insights and experiences. After the series, please share your feedback and any testimonies from your group with us. This helps us to improve and grow together as a community. You can give us your input by visiting [clifec.com/serve-feedback](http://clifec.com/serve-feedback).

Thank you for your dedication and willingness to lead. Your role is vital in shepherding our community through this journey of faith and service. May this guide be a helpful tool in your hands as you guide your group closer to the heart of God through service.

# Project Planning Steps and Timeline

APRIL 7

WEEK 1

- **Begin Step 1 - Choose a Project.**
- Brainstorm project ideas with your CG (use idea list to help).
- Review FAQs at [clifec.com/serve](http://clifec.com/serve).
- Register project at [clifec.com/serve](http://clifec.com/serve) if the group has decided on a project by the end of your meeting.
- Does your group need additional help to complete your project? If so, be sure to enter the number of additional people you need when registering your project.

APRIL 14

WEEK 2

- **Begin Step 2 - Plan Your Project.**
- CG leader registers project at [clifec.com/serve](http://clifec.com/serve) (if this has not already been done).
- Work through SERVE Project Planning pages.
- Advise group members to pick up a SERVE t-shirt on campus next Sunday, April 21.

APRIL 21

WEEK 3

- **Complete Step 2 - Plan Your Project.**
- Refer back to project planning pages and ensure all details are finalized.
- Email [serve@clifec.com](mailto:serve@clifec.com) for a list of additional participants if you asked for more people to join your project.
- **Prepare for Step 3 - Serve** by identifying any last minute details that will need to be completed immediately prior to your project.
- If you will complete your project prior to the next meeting, remember to start your project with prayer, have fun, love people and post pictures using #cLifeSERVES2024.

APRIL 28

WEEK 4

- **Step 3 - Plan Your Project** will have been completed OR is scheduled for the coming week.
- Finalize details, if necessary.
- Start your project with prayer, love people, and have fun!
- Post photos on social media and use #cLifeSERVES2024.
- **Complete Step 4 - Reflect** using the “Make it Personal” section of Week 4 materials.

SERVE | APRIL 27 – MAY 5

#cLifeSERVES2024

# Week 1: Understanding Servanthood

This week, we delve into the heart of servanthood, guided by Jesus Christ's example. Reflect on how servanthood is portrayed in the Bible and consider how you can embody Christ's example in your daily life.

## Leader Lifter



[clifec.com/serve-lifter-1](https://clifec.com/serve-lifter-1)

## Icebreaker

Share a personal experience where you felt truly served by someone else. How did that impact your perception of servanthood?

## Weekly Review Questions

What has God been doing in your life lately? Are you excited about it, or does it make you anxious?

What stood out to you in the devotional material, or your Bible study this week?

## Scripture Reading for the Week:

- Matthew 20:26-28
- Mark 10:43-45
- John 13:12-17

## Discussion

Today, we're exploring the concept of servanthood as taught and exemplified by Jesus. In a world where greatness is often measured by power and authority, Jesus presents a radically different view. Let's dive into the scriptures to understand His teachings on true greatness and leadership.



## **Matthew 20:26-28: Redefining Greatness**

### **Read the Passage:**

*“It shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be your slave, even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”*

**Reflection:** In these verses, Jesus is responding to the disciples’ dispute about who would be greatest in the kingdom of heaven. He turns their understanding upside down by stating that greatness comes from serving others, not from being served.

### **Discussion Questions:**

How does Jesus’ definition of greatness differ from the world’s perspective?

Can you think of a situation where serving someone else made you feel more fulfilled or ‘greater’ in a spiritual sense?

How can we apply this teaching in our personal, professional, and spiritual lives?

## **Mark 10:43-45: Leadership as Servanthood**

### **Read the Passage:**

*“But it shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”*

**Reflection:** Here, Jesus emphasizes that true leadership is about serving others selflessly. He presents Himself as the ultimate example, serving humanity to the point of sacrificing His own life.

# Week 1: Understanding Servanthood

## Discussion Questions:

How does this teaching challenge the conventional view of leadership?

In what ways can we model this servant leadership in our own communities?

Discuss examples of when you've seen this type of leadership in action.

## John 13:12, 14: The Ultimate Act of Humility

### Read the Passage:

*When he had washed their feet... "If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet..."*

**Reflection:** This passage describes Jesus performing the humble act of washing His disciples' feet, a task typically done by servants. This act symbolizes service, humility, and the cleansing power of Christ.

### Discussion Questions:

What does Jesus washing the disciples' feet teach us about humility and service?

How can we incorporate this lesson of humble service into our daily interactions?

Share a time when you experienced or witnessed an act of humble service. How did it impact you or others?

### Make it Personal:

Reflect on areas in your life where you can adopt a servant's heart. How can you serve others in your community, workplace, or family?

As we reflect on these teachings of Jesus, let's challenge ourselves to embrace and practice this radical view of greatness and leadership. Serving others selflessly, leading with humility, and putting others first are not just noble ideals; they are the essence of following Christ.

## The Challenge

- Group Discussion: Share and discuss what serving others means to your group. Reflect on how Jesus' teachings influence this understanding.
- Review this week's SERVE project goals.

APRIL 7

WEEK 1

### • **Begin Step 1 - Choose a Project.**

- Brainstorm project ideas with your CG (use idea list to help).
- Review FAQs at [clifec.com/serve](http://clifec.com/serve).
- Register project at [clifec.com/serve](http://clifec.com/serve) if the group has decided on a project by the end of your meeting.
- Does your group need additional help to complete your project? If so, be sure to enter the number of additional people you need when registering your project.

- Identify potential service projects that align with the group's skills and passions. If you need inspiration, see the idea list on the next page.
- Initial Planning: Start creating a list of potential beneficiaries for your service project. Consider who in your community could most benefit from your group's service. You can start working through the project planning questions on page 11.
- As a group, make sure that you go over the to-do list for the week.

## Prayer

This week's study invites us to not only understand but also to begin practicing true servanthood. As you move forward, consider how you can embody Christ's servant leadership in your daily life and community. Begin praying about the SERVE project your group will accomplish in your community.

# Week 1: Understanding Servanthood

## SERVE Project Ideas

### GENERAL IDEAS

- Clean up or help with new landscaping for a local school
- Host a garage sale to help a family or organization
- Help the elderly, widows, or single parents with minor repairs/house projects

### NURSING HOMES

- Let kids make crafts and deliver to residents
- Host an event — worship service, game night, etc.
- Deliver flowers or small care packages to residents and eat dinner with them

### SPECIAL NEEDS

- Build a wheelchair ramp for a family
- Identify a family with a special-needs child and give parents a day out
- Host a party for residents of a special-needs home

### LOCAL HOSPITALS

- Serve free coffee and snacks to staff and those in the ER waiting room
- Provide healthy snacks for chemotherapy patients

### LOCAL HOSPITALS *(continued)*

- Deliver small gifts and care packages to patients and families in the children's wing or NICU

### CITY SERVICE

- Help your city with local projects
- Find ways to thank city officials and service providers
- Contact the city and see how you can help them clean up or touch up some park areas

### COMMUNITY OUTREACH

- Organize a community trash cleanup
- Take lunch to your local police or fire station
- Wash windows of locally owned businesses

### OUTREACH IDEAS

- Serve food to the homeless
- Host a block party for families with food, games, and music
- Hand out gum, popsicles, sunscreen or bottled water at a local park

**SERVE**

## **SERVE Project Planning**

**What causes are we passionate about?**

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**Which project best suits our talents?**

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**Who do we know that needs help?**

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**What will our SERVE project look like?**

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**How many people do we need for our SERVE project?**

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**Who will do what? (assign roles)**

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## Week 2: Cultivating Love for Others

This week, our focus is on cultivating a genuine love for others. We'll explore the biblical teachings on love, unity, and humility, and how these virtues are essential in our service to others. As we delve into the scriptures, let's seek to understand and embody the love that God calls us to extend to our neighbors.

### Leader Lifter



[clifec.com/serve-lifter-2](https://clifec.com/serve-lifter-2)

### Icebreaker

Think of a time when you felt deeply loved by someone. What actions or words made you feel loved? How can this experience guide us in loving others?

### Weekly Review Questions

Share one way you practiced servanthood this week. How did this experience align with your understanding of Jesus' teachings on being a servant?

What stood out to you in the devotional material or your Bible study this week?

### Scripture Reading for the Week:

- Matthew 22:39
- 1 John 4:7-12
- Philippians 2:1-4

### Discussion

As we reflect on what it means to love others, let's turn to the scriptures to guide our understanding and actions. In a world where love is often conditional or self-serving, God's Word calls us to a love that is selfless, humble, and rooted in Christ's example.

## Week 2: Cultivating Love for Others

### **Matthew 22:39: Redefining Greatness**

#### **Read the Passage:**

*“You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”*

**Reflection:** Jesus presents this commandment as inseparable from loving God. It challenges us to consider how we treat those around us and calls us to extend the same care and concern we have for ourselves to others.

#### **Discussion Questions:**

How do we understand ‘neighbor’ in this context?

In what ways can we practically love our neighbors in our everyday lives?

How does loving our neighbor reflect our love for God?

### **1 John 4:7-12: Love, Born of God**

#### **Read the Passage:**

*Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God...*

**Reflection:** This passage beautifully articulates that love originates from God and that loving one another is a reflection of knowing God. It reminds us that our ability to love others is a testament to God’s love in us.

#### **Discussion Questions:**

How does understanding that love comes from God change our perspective on loving others?

In what ways can we demonstrate God’s love to those who may not know Him?

Discuss a time when loving someone else helped you understand God’s love more deeply.



## Philippians 2:1-4: Unity and Humility in Love

### Read the Passage:

*Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves...*

**Reflection:** Paul urges the believers in Philippi to have a mindset of humility and unity, looking to the interests of others. This mindset is key in serving and loving others effectively.

### Discussion Questions:

How can humility enhance our ability to love others?

What are some challenges we face in putting others' interests before our own, and how can we overcome them?

Share an example of a time when unity within a group led to more effective service or support.

### Make it Personal:

Reflect on ways you can cultivate love for others in your life. Consider areas where you can show more compassion, kindness, and understanding.

## The Challenge

- Group Discussion: Reflect on how the group can demonstrate love for others in practical ways. Share ideas and experiences.
- Review this week's SERVE project goals.

**APRIL 14**

**WEEK 2**

- **Begin Step 2 - Plan Your Project.**
- CG leader registers project at [clifec.com/serve](http://clifec.com/serve) (if this has not already been done).
- Work through SERVE Project Planning pages.
- Advise group members to pick up a SERVE t-shirt on campus next Sunday, April 21.

## Week 2: Cultivating Love for Others

- Refine the list of potential service projects and beneficiaries based on the principles of love and humility discussed.
- Assign tasks related to research and planning for the service projects. Ensure these tasks embody the spirit of love and unity.
- As a group, make sure that you go over the to-do list for the week.
- Continue working through the SERVE project planning pages. If you have not registered your project, do that this week. If you have any questions about the registration process, email us at [serve@clifec.com](mailto:serve@clifec.com).

### Prayer

As we conclude this week's study, let's pray for the ability to love as Christ loves us. May our service projects be a reflection of this love, and may we find joy in serving and loving those in our community.

### SERVE To-Do List

Name	Assigned Tasks

## **SERVE Project Planning**

**What resources do we already have?**

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**What resources do we have access to?**

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**What resources do we still need?**

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**How will we obtain the needed resources?**

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**What's on the to-do list for our SERVE project?**

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**Who is responsible for each task?**

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## Week 3: Living Out Faith Through Actions

This week, we focus on the vital relationship between faith and works. Our study will delve into how genuine faith naturally leads to action, especially in serving others. We'll explore scriptural teachings that encourage us to express our faith through practical acts of love and service.

### Leader Lifter



[clifec.com/serve-lifter-3](https://clifec.com/serve-lifter-3)

### Icebreaker

Share a moment in your life when someone's action, motivated by their faith, made a significant impact on you. How did this experience influence your understanding of faith in action?

### Weekly Review Questions

Discuss how you showed love to someone this week. How did this act of love reflect your understanding of God's love?

What stood out to you in the devotional material or your Bible study this week?

### Scripture Reading for the Week:

- James 2:14-17
- Galatians 6:9-10
- Hebrews 13:16

### Discussion

Faith is the cornerstone of our relationship with God, but it doesn't stop there. The Bible teaches us that authentic faith is demonstrated through our actions. This week, we'll examine what it means to live out our faith through acts of service and kindness.

## **James 2:14-17: Faith and Works Go Hand in Hand**

### **Read the Passage:**

*What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works?...*

**Reflection:** James challenges us to reflect on the practicality of our faith. True faith, he argues, is evidenced by the actions it inspires, particularly in meeting the needs of those around us.

### **Discussion Questions:**

What are some ways our faith can motivate us to act?

How does this passage challenge the way you view service and generosity?

Discuss practical steps we can take to ensure our faith is active and not just theoretical.

## **Galatians 6:9-10: Perseverance in Doing Good**

### **Read the Passage:**

*And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap...*

**Reflection:** Paul encourages us not to lose heart in doing good, reminding us that our efforts have a purpose and will bear fruit in due time.

### **Discussion Questions:**

How can we maintain enthusiasm and perseverance in serving others?

Discuss the importance of doing good, especially to those who are of the household of faith.

Share a time when you felt discouraged in doing good and how you overcame it.

## Week 3: Living Out Faith Through Actions

### Hebrews 13:16: Sharing and Doing Good

#### Read the Passage:

*Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.*

**Reflection:** This verse reminds us that sharing and doing good are not just acts of human kindness, but they are sacrifices pleasing to God.

#### Discussion Questions:

In what ways can we share what we have with others?

How does this concept of sacrifice relate to our daily lives and service?

Think of examples where you've seen the joy of sharing in your community or church.

#### Make it Personal:

Consider how you can better integrate your faith with your actions. Reflect on areas in your life where you can be more active in serving and doing good.

### The Challenge

- Group Discussion: Discuss the relationship between faith and action in the context of the group's service project.
- Review this week's SERVE project goals.

- **Complete Step 2 - Plan Your Project.**

- Refer back to project planning pages and ensure all details are finalized.
- Email [serve@clifec.com](mailto:serve@clifec.com) for a list of additional participants if you asked for more people to join your project.
- **Prepare for Step 3 - Serve** by identifying any last minute details that will need to be completed immediately prior to your project.
- If you will complete your project prior to the next meeting, remember to start your project with prayer, have fun, love people and post pictures using #cLifeSERVES2024.

- Finalize the service project and beneficiaries, ensuring that your choices reflect your faith in action.
- Create a detailed plan for the service project, including roles, responsibilities, and a timeline. Encourage each member to consider how this project is an expression of their faith.
- As a group, make sure that you go over the to-do list for the week.

## Prayer

As we close this week's study, let's pray for the strength and wisdom to live out our faith through our actions. May our service project not only meet the needs of others but also be a true reflection of our faith in Christ.





## Week 4: The Impact of Service

In our final week of this series, we focus on the profound impact that service can have, both on those who give and those who receive. We'll explore how acts of service are not only expressions of God's love but also powerful tools for drawing others closer to Him.

### Leader Lifter



[clifec.com/serve-lifter-4](https://clifec.com/serve-lifter-4)

### Icebreaker

Share a story of a time when you witnessed the impact of service, either as the giver or the receiver. How did this experience affect you and those involved?

### Weekly Review Questions

Share an example from this week where your actions were a direct expression of your faith. What motivated this action?

What stood out to you in the devotional material or your Bible study this week?

### Scripture Reading for the Week:

- Matthew 5:16
- 1 Peter 4:10
- Galatians 5:13

### Discussion

Service is more than an act; it's a testament to our faith and a reflection of God's love. This week, we delve into how our service can illuminate the lives of others and glorify God.

## Week 4: The Impact of Service

### **Matthew 5:16: Letting Your Light Shine**

#### **Read the Passage:**

*“In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.”*

**Reflection:** Jesus encourages us to live in such a way that our actions point others to God. Our service is a light that can guide others to Him.

#### **Discussion Questions:**

How can our service be a testimony to our faith?

Discuss ways in which serving others can shine a light on God’s love.

What are some practical ways we can ensure our service glorifies God and not ourselves?

### **1 Peter 4:10: Serving with Our Gifts**

#### **Read the Passage:**

*As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God’s varied grace.*

**Reflection:** Peter reminds us that our talents and gifts are given by God not for our own benefit, but to serve others and thus serve God.

#### **Discussion Questions:**

What gifts or talents do you feel God has given you, and how can you use them to serve?

How does using our gifts in service reflect our stewardship of God’s grace?

Share an example of how you or someone you know has used their gifts in service.

### **Galatians 5:13: Serving in Love**

#### **Read the Passage:**

*For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.*

**Reflection:** Paul highlights that our freedom in Christ is an opportunity to serve others in love, rather than serving our own desires.

**Discussion Questions:**

How does serving others demonstrate the freedom we have in Christ?

Discuss the relationship between love and service. How does one influence the other?

Consider ways in which serving others can be an act of love in your community.

**Make it Personal:**

Reflect on your group's SERVE project, which you may have just completed or are still preparing to complete. How did it impact you and those you served, or how do you anticipate that it will have an impact? Do you see it impacting you and those you serve? What are your hopes and prayers for this project?

**The Challenge**

- Group Discussion: Discuss the impact or potential impact of the group's service project on both the group members and the beneficiaries.
- Review this week's SERVE project goals. *If your project is complete, spend more time on reflection. Otherwise spend this time finalizing project details.*

**APRIL 28**

**WEEK 4**

- **Step 3 - Plan Your Project** will have been completed OR is scheduled for the coming week.
- Finalize details, if necessary.
- Start your project with prayer, love people, and have fun!
- Post photos on social media and use #cLifeSERVES2024.
- **Complete Step 4 - Reflect** using the "Make it Personal" section of Week 4 materials.

## Week 4: The Impact of Service

- Review the service project plan, ensuring everyone understands their role and the timeline.
- Begin to implement the service project, starting with any preparatory tasks that can be done in advance.
- Challenge the group to do some sort of reflection after project is complete if you weren't able to do it today. Maybe something as a family, or possibly posting on social media if they're comfortable.
- Make sure to go over the to-do list for the week. Also, go over the final details for your project. Time, place, supplies, food, etc. Make sure everyone knows who is to be where and who is doing what.

### Prayer

As we move forward to put our plans into action, let's pray for the success of our service project. May our efforts not only meet the needs of those we serve but also bring glory to God and draw others closer to Him.

### We want to hear from you!

We value your insights and experiences. After the series, please share your feedback and any testimonies from your group with us. This helps us to improve and grow together as a community. You can give us your input by visiting [clifec.com/serve-feedback](https://clifec.com/serve-feedback).









**[clifec.com/serve](https://clifec.com/serve)**