

# SERVE

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SEE A NEED » FILL A NEED

**2024**  
**Participant Guide**



# WELCOME

Dear c|Life,

As pastors of Community Life Church, we are thrilled to introduce to you our latest devotional journey. This guide is not just a collection of readings and reflections; it is a pathway towards deeper spiritual growth, a tool for nurturing our faith, and a means to connect more intimately with God and with each other.

In this journey, we will explore fundamental aspects of our Christian walk - servanthood, love, faith in action, service, and the joy of giving. These themes are central to our calling as followers of Christ and pivotal in how we live out our faith in our daily lives.

Each week is designed to provide you with scriptural insights, reflective questions, and prayer points. We hope that these will not only guide your personal devotional time but also enrich your discussions in your community groups. We strongly encourage you to engage with these materials actively, allowing God's word to challenge, change, and nurture you.

Additionally, we recognize the power of sharing and learning in a community. As such, we have included a weekly review section in your group meetings. This will be a time to share insights, experiences, and growth points with each other. We believe that as you share and listen, you will find encouragement, accountability, and a deeper sense of belonging within our church family.

As your pastors, we are committed to walking this journey with you. We are here to support, guide, and pray with you. Let us approach this devotional journey with open hearts and minds, ready to be transformed and to grow together in faith and love.

May this guide be a blessing to you as you draw closer to God and each other. We are excited to see how the Lord will work in and through us all in the weeks ahead.

In His Service,  
c|Life Pastors

# Week 1: Understanding Servanthood

## Introduction

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.

## Icebreaker

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

## Scripture Reading for the Week:

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

## CG Notes

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## 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 located in the Leader's Guide.
- **Brainstorm Session:** Identify potential service projects that align with the group's skills and passions. There's an idea list in the Leader's Guide you can use for inspiration.
- **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.

## My To-Do List

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## Prayer

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# Week 1: Understanding Servanthood

## Daily Devotionals

### Day 1: The Heart of a Servant

*“...whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave—just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”*  
— **Matthew 20:26-28**

In a world obsessed with climbing ladders and sitting on thrones, Jesus presents a radically different paradigm of greatness. In Matthew 20:26-28, He turns our understanding upside down – greatness, according to the kingdom of heaven, is rooted not in power and authority, but in service and humility.

In the corridors of worldly power, greatness is often measured by how many people serve you. Yet, in the realm of the Kingdom, Jesus flips the script: true greatness is measured by how many people you serve. It's a challenging perspective, especially when our natural inclinations lean towards self-promotion and seeking personal accolades.

Jesus, our ultimate role model, lived out this principle to the fullest. The King of kings chose to be a servant. The One who deserved all service, served others - washing feet, healing the sick, feeding the hungry, and ultimately, giving His life for us. His life was a masterclass in servanthood, a call to a life of selfless service.

Now, let's talk about you and me. It's easy to read these verses and nod in agreement, but living them out? That's where the real challenge lies. It's about choosing to serve when you'd rather be served, about taking the lower place when you could claim the higher one, about washing feet when you could be sitting at the table.

So, how do we cultivate a heart of servanthood? It starts with our perspective. We need to see service not as a step down, but as a step up in our spiritual journey. Serving others is not losing out; it's leading like Jesus. It's about making a choice every day to put others' needs above our own, to see people through the lens of love and compassion, and to act in their best interest.

Today, as you reflect on Jesus' teaching, ask yourself: "Where can I serve?" It might be in your home, your workplace, your church, or your community. Look for opportunities to put others first and yourself second.

**Prayer:** *Lord, help me to embrace and practice the humility and servanthood taught by Jesus. Give me the strength to serve others selflessly, to see greatness in humility, and to live out my faith in actions that reflect Your love. Amen.*

## Day 2: Leadership Redefined

*“...whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”*

**— Mark 10:43-45**

In a culture that often equates leadership with power, control, and prestige, Jesus presents a counter-cultural model: servant leadership. In Mark 10:43-45, Jesus doesn't just tweak our understanding of leadership; He completely overturns it. He teaches that true leadership is not about wielding power, but about wielding a towel - ready to serve.

This concept can be jarring, especially if we've grown up admiring leaders who project strength in more traditional ways. But Jesus' model of leadership isn't about diminishing strength; it's about redefining it. It's about leading from a place of humility and service, prioritizing others' needs above our own, and finding greatness in the act of giving rather than receiving.

Consider Jesus' own life as the epitome of this teaching. He healed, taught, washed feet, and ultimately laid down His life for others. His leadership wasn't about making a name for Himself but about making a way for others. It was leadership that lifted others up, healed brokenness, and restored dignity.

Now, let's bring it closer to home. How does this change the way you lead in your family, your workplace, your community, or your church? Imagine a leadership style that's marked by a willingness to do the lowest job, to elevate others, to listen more than speak, and to give rather than take. This is the leadership Jesus calls us to emulate.

Leading like Jesus might mean being the first to arrive and the last to leave, the one who listens to the concerns of the least heard, or the one who steps up to do the thankless tasks. It's a leadership style that doesn't seek the spotlight but seeks to spread the light to others.

Today, as you reflect on Jesus' radical teaching, ask God to show you areas in your life where you can lead through service. Pray for the wisdom to see opportunities to serve and the humility to act on them.

**Prayer:** *Heavenly Father, grant me the wisdom and humility to lead through service. Help me to follow Jesus' example in my daily life, seeing leadership as an opportunity to serve rather than to be served. May my leadership bring glory to You and uplift those around me. Amen.*

# Week 1: Understanding Servanthood

## Day 3: Humility in Action

*When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. “Do you understand what I have done for you?” he asked them...*  
— John 13:12-17

In the hushed room, Jesus, the Teacher and Lord, kneels before His disciples, embracing a servant’s role, washing their feet. This profound moment, depicted in John 13:12-17, isn’t just a lesson in humility; it’s a revolutionary call to action for every believer.

In Jesus’ time, washing the feet of guests was a task reserved for servants or those of lower status. By taking on this role, Jesus was doing more than just cleaning dirty feet; He was demonstrating the depth of His love and the extent of His humility. This action was a vivid illustration of how the Kingdom of God turns worldly values upside down.

Now, let’s consider our lives. Humility in action, as shown by Jesus, isn’t about grand gestures; it’s about the small acts of service that we often overlook. It’s about choosing to listen rather than speak, to give rather than receive, to uplift rather than seek elevation. It’s in the everyday moments that we have the opportunity to embody the humility of Christ.

Following Jesus’ example of humility means being aware of the needs around us and responding to them, even if it means stepping out of our comfort zones or doing things that go unnoticed. It’s about serving without the expectation of recognition or reward. This kind of service isn’t weak; it’s the strongest statement of love we can make.

Today, as you go about your day, look for opportunities to demonstrate humility. It could be as simple as offering a kind word, helping a colleague with a task, or taking on a job that no one else wants to do. Each act of service, no matter how small, is a reflection of Jesus’ love and humility.

As you ponder on this, seek God’s guidance on where you can demonstrate humble service. Ask Him to open your eyes to the needs around you and to give you the heart and the strength to respond as Jesus would.

**Prayer:** *Lord, help me to embody the humility shown by Jesus. Guide me to opportunities for humble service in my daily life. Let my actions reflect Your love and humility, serving others without seeking recognition or reward. Amen.*



## Day 4: The Ripple Effect of Service

*Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others...*  
— 1 Peter 4:8-10

In these verses from 1 Peter, we're reminded of a profound truth: our acts of service, no matter how small, have a ripple effect that extends far beyond the immediate moment. Peter encourages us to love deeply and serve generously, using the unique gifts we've been given to impact others.

The concept of the ripple effect in service is powerful. Just as a single pebble can create waves across the surface of a pond, a single act of kindness or service can have far-reaching effects. These acts of service, rooted in love and humility, carry the potential to transform lives, communities, and even generations.

Consider the ways in which a simple act of kindness has impacted your life. Maybe it was a word of encouragement at just the right moment, a helping hand when you were struggling, or an unexpected gesture of generosity. These moments, often small and seemingly insignificant, can lift spirits, change attitudes, and even alter the course of someone's day or life.

The beauty of service in the kingdom of God is that it doesn't require grand gestures or massive projects. It's often in the everyday interactions, the simple acts of love and kindness, where we see God's love most clearly demonstrated. It's in the smile to a stranger, the patience shown in a tense moment, the willingness to listen, or the offer of help without being asked.

Today, as you go about your routine, ask God to open your eyes to the opportunities for service around you. They might be big or small, but each one is significant. Pray for the discernment to recognize these opportunities and the willingness to act on them. Remember, your service is an expression of God's love, and even the smallest act can start a ripple of kindness and compassion that reaches far beyond what you can see.

**Prayer:** *Heavenly Father, help me to recognize the daily opportunities for service you place in my path. Grant me the heart to serve with love and humility, understanding that even the smallest act of kindness can have a far-reaching impact. May my actions today ripple outwards, spreading Your love and grace. Amen.*

# Week 1: Understanding Servanthood

## Day 5: The Joy of Serving

*God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them.*

— Hebrews 6:10

Serving others is more than a duty; it's a source of deep joy and fulfillment. Hebrews 6:10 reminds us that God recognizes and values our acts of service, not just as tasks completed, but as expressions of love. It's in serving others that we often find unexpected joy and a sense of purpose that aligns with God's design for our lives.

Have you ever experienced the warmth that spreads through your heart when you help someone? Perhaps it was as simple as assisting a neighbor, volunteering your time for a cause, or just being there for a friend in need. In these moments, we're doing more than just performing a kind act; we're living out our calling as followers of Christ.

Serving aligns with God's purpose for our lives in several ways. It reflects Jesus' own life of service, it builds up the community of believers, and it acts as a witness to the world of God's love and grace. When we serve, we're participating in something much larger than ourselves. We're stepping into the flow of God's work in the world, and there's profound joy in being part of that.

This joy doesn't mean that serving is always easy. It often requires sacrifice, stepping out of our comfort zones, and putting others' needs above our own. But the fulfillment we find in serving is rooted in knowing that we are aligning with God's will, showing His love in tangible ways, and making a real difference in the lives of others.

Today, reflect on the joy that comes from serving. Think about the times when you've felt most alive, most purposeful. Chances are, many of those moments involved serving others in some capacity. As you serve, observe how it impacts not only those you help but also your own heart. There's a unique joy that comes from knowing you're making a difference, a joy that echoes the heart of God.

**Prayer:** *Lord, thank You for the joy and fulfillment that come from serving others. Help me to find joy in every act of service, big or small. May my actions bring encouragement and joy to those I serve and reflect the love and grace You have shown me. Amen.*

## Day 6: Examen

An Examen is a weekly reflection exercise where you think back over your week. It's a time to notice where you felt happy or challenged and to thank God for being with you. This practice helps you see the small ways God is part of your everyday life. At the end of the week, engage in the Examen to reflect on your experiences and feelings during the past week.

- 1. Gratitude:** Identify moments this week for which you are most grateful.
- 2. Review:** Reflect on the week with God. Notice when you felt His presence in your servanthood and when you faced challenges.
- 3. Think About It:** Are there any moments where you fell short in serving as Christ would? Bring these to God in a spirit of repentance. Are there moments you can think of where you were completely obedient in serving? What was that like?
- 4. Prayer:** What is on your mind this week? Where do you need God to show up? Be praying for a heart of service, especially concerning your CG's upcoming SERVE project.
- 5. Hope for the Coming Week:** Seek God's guidance for the next week. Pray for opportunities to serve and exemplify His love.

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# Week 2: Cultivating Love for Others

## Introduction

This week, our focus is on cultivating genuine love for others. We will explore what the Bible teaches about love, unity, and humility in service. As you go through this week, consider how you can express God's love through your actions and interactions.

## 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?

## Scripture Reading for the Week:

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

## CG Notes

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## The Challenge

- Group Discussion: Reflect on how the group can demonstrate love for others in practical ways. Share ideas and experiences.
- 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.

## My To-Do List

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## Prayer

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# Week 2: Cultivating Love for Others

## Daily Devotionals

### Day 1: Loving Your Neighbor

*“And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’”*

— Matthew 22:39

In the hustle of our daily lives, it’s easy to overlook one of Jesus’ most profound commandments: to love our neighbor as ourselves. This simple yet powerful directive, found in Matthew 22:39, holds the key to transforming not only our personal lives but also the world around us.

But who exactly is our ‘neighbor’? In today’s context, it goes beyond the person living next door. Our neighbors are our colleagues, the barista at the coffee shop, the person sitting alone in the park, the family struggling to make ends meet, and even those we find difficult to get along with. Essentially, our neighbor is anyone we interact with or have the opportunity to impact.

Loving our neighbor as ourselves is a call to empathy and action. It’s about putting ourselves in others’ shoes, understanding their struggles, and responding with compassion. This kind of love involves more than just feelings; it’s about making a conscious decision to act in the best interest of others, to offer help, to be patient, to forgive, and to show kindness, regardless of how we may feel at the moment.

This commandment challenges us to examine how we treat others in our daily interactions. Do we show the same level of concern and care for their well-being as we do for our own? Are we willing to go out of our way to help someone, even if it’s inconvenient? Are we quick to judge, or do we extend grace and understanding?

Loving your neighbor as yourself also means valuing others’ needs and dignity as much as you value your own. It’s about celebrating their successes without envy, sharing in their burdens without judgment, and offering our support without expecting anything in return.

Today, as you reflect on this scripture, ask God to help you see others through His eyes. Pray for a heart that loves genuinely and selflessly. Look for practical ways to show this love: a kind word, a helpful gesture, a listening ear, or a moment of your time. Remember, in loving our neighbors, we reflect the love of Jesus, and through these acts of love, we become lights in a world that desperately needs it.

**Prayer:** *Dear God, give me a heart that loves others as You love. Help me to see opportunities to show Your love in practical ways every day. Teach me to love my neighbors unconditionally, just as Jesus loves me. Amen.*

## Day 2: God's Love Manifested

*Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.*

— 1 John 4:7-8

At the heart of our faith lies a simple yet profound truth: God is love. These words from 1 John 4:7-8 invite us to ponder not just the nature of God but also how His essence of love should be mirrored in our lives. This isn't just about understanding a theological concept; it's about letting this truth transform how we interact with the world.

To say that God is love is to recognize that every expression of genuine love originates from Him. It's to acknowledge that our capacity to love is a gift from God, a reflection of His character within us. When we love others, we are, in a sense, revealing God to them. We become conduits of His love, agents through which His compassion, kindness, and grace flow into the lives of those around us.

Loving like God does isn't always easy, especially when faced with challenging situations or difficult people. It's in these moments that loving others becomes a true reflection of our relationship with God. It's easy to love those who love us back, but the call to love like God involves loving even those who may not reciprocate or appreciate it.

Today, spend some time meditating on God's nature as love. Reflect on what this means for how you view others and yourself. Ask God to help you embody His love in all your interactions. Whether it's showing patience in a stressful situation, offering forgiveness where it's hard, extending kindness to someone who may not 'deserve' it, or simply being there for someone in need – these are the moments where God's love becomes tangible.

As you go about your day, be mindful of how you can demonstrate God's love. In moments of tension or conflict, pause and ask yourself, "How can I reflect God's love right now?" Remember, each act of love, no matter how small, is a powerful testament to the God we serve, a God who is love.

**Prayer:** *Heavenly Father, thank You for Your perfect love. Help me to reflect Your love in my daily interactions, especially in challenging situations. Teach me to love others not just with words, but in action and truth, as a true reflection of Your love. Amen.*

## Week 2: Cultivating Love for Others

### Day 3: The Call to Love One Another

*When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. “Do you understand what I have done for you?” he asked them...*

— 1 John 4:11-12

John’s epistle presents us with a profound truth: our love for one another is a direct response to God’s love for us. This call to love isn’t just a suggestion; it’s an imperative rooted in the very nature of God and our experience of His love. The way we love others is a tangible expression of God’s love in the world.

Think about the magnitude of God’s love for us – a love so deep and powerful that He sent His Son to redeem us. Now, we are called to reflect that love to others. This isn’t always straightforward, especially when relationships are strained or when people seem unlovable from our human perspective. But remember, God’s love transcends our human limitations and prejudices.

Loving one another means seeing people through God’s eyes and valuing them as He does. It’s about showing grace, forgiveness, patience, kindness, and compassion. It means putting others’ needs and well-being above our own preferences or comfort. Sometimes, it’s as simple as listening attentively, speaking encouraging words, or being present in times of need.

Today, take a moment to consider the relationships in your life. How can you demonstrate God’s love in these interactions? Are there strained relationships where showing love feels challenging? Ask God to give you the wisdom and grace to love as He loves. Seek His guidance on how to bring healing, reconciliation, and kindness into these relationships.

Moreover, think about the wider community – the people you encounter in your daily routines. Each interaction is an opportunity to show God’s love. Whether it’s a smile, a kind gesture, or an offer of help, these small acts can have a significant impact.

As you pray today, bring specific relationships before God. Ask for His love to fill you and flow through you. Pray for the ability to love not just in words, but in actions and truth. Remember, when we love one another, God’s love is made complete in us, and His presence is made visible in the world.

**Prayer:** *Lord, thank You for Your incredible love for me. Help me to respond to Your love by loving those around me. Give me wisdom and grace in my relationships, and help me to demonstrate Your love in both big and small ways. Amen.*



## Day 4: Unity and Humility in Love

*Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind.*  
— **Philippians 2:1-2**

In his letter to the Philippians, Paul points out the profound connection between unity, humility, and love. These are not isolated virtues; they are intricately woven together, creating the fabric of a community that reflects Christ's love. Paul encourages us to be like-minded, united in spirit and purpose, driven by love that is rooted in humility and selflessness.

Unity in the body of Christ is more than just agreement; it's a shared commitment to Christ's mission and values. It's about prioritizing the greater good over personal preferences and opinions. This kind of unity is not possible without humility - the willingness to value others above ourselves, to listen, understand, and consider their needs as important as our own.

Humility, in the context of Christian love, isn't about self-deprecation; it's about recognizing the value of others and treating them accordingly. It's about seeing ourselves as part of a larger body, each member valuable and necessary. When we operate from a place of humility, we create space for genuine connection and unity.

Today, reflect on how you can cultivate these qualities in your own life. How can you contribute to unity in your community? Are there situations where you need to take a step back and listen more? Are there relationships where you need to show greater empathy and understanding? Remember, our call to unity and humility isn't about uniformity or suppressing our personalities; it's about coming together in our diversity, united by our common love for Christ.

As you pray today, ask God to develop a humble heart within you. Pray for the ability to see others as Christ sees them and to value their contributions. Ask for wisdom in how to foster unity in your relationships and community. Pray that your actions and attitudes would reflect the selfless love of Christ, bringing harmony and strengthening the bonds of fellowship.

**Prayer:** *Heavenly Father, guide me in cultivating unity and humility within my community. Help me to value others and see them as You do. Grant me the humility to contribute to unity, embodying the love and compassion of Christ in all my interactions. Amen.*

## Week 2: Cultivating Love for Others

### Day 5: Considering Others' Interests

*Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.* — **Philippians 2:3-4**

In these verses from Philippians, Paul lays out a radical yet essential principle for Christian living: considering others' interests above our own. This teaching challenges the very core of our natural inclinations, calling us to a life marked by selflessness and humility.

In a world that often encourages self-promotion and personal gain, Paul's words offer a counter-cultural message. He calls us to a lifestyle where our actions and decisions are influenced not just by what's best for us, but also by what benefits others. This isn't about neglecting our own needs but about recognizing the value and importance of others' needs and desires.

Consider how this principle can be lived out in your everyday life. It could be as simple as letting someone else choose the restaurant for a meal, giving up your seat on public transport, actively listening when someone speaks, or offering help without being asked. In the workplace, it might mean supporting a colleague's idea or project, even if it means extra work for you. In your family, it could involve prioritizing another family member's needs or preferences.

This teaching also extends to how we engage in our communities and churches. It's about being involved in service projects, being attentive to the needs of those around us, and looking for ways to make a positive impact on others' lives.

As you reflect on this scripture, think about areas in your life where you can better practice this principle. Where can you put aside your own ambitions or convenience for the sake of others? How can you cultivate a heart that genuinely values and prioritizes the interests of those around you?

Today, as you pray, ask God to grant you a selfless spirit. Pray for the ability to see and respond to the needs of others. Ask for the humility to put their interests above your own, reflecting the selfless love of Christ in your actions and decisions.

**Prayer:** *Lord, help me to embody the humility and selflessness taught in Your Word. Give me a heart that earnestly values others and seeks to put their interests above my own. Teach me to live out this principle in practical ways, reflecting Your love and compassion in all I do. Amen.*

## **Day 6: Examen**

At the end of the week, take some time for the Examen, focusing on your experiences related to love and service.

**1. Gratitude:** Reflect on moments this week where you felt or witnessed genuine love.

**2. Review:** With God, review your week. Where did you see opportunities to love others? Where might you have missed these opportunities?

**3. Think About It:** Do you think you love others the way Christ loves? In what ways is it easy for you? In what ways is difficult?

**4. Prayer:** What is on your mind this week? Where do you need God to show up? Pray about the details of your upcoming SERVE project. Be praying that you will show the love of Christ to those you will be serving.

**5. Hope for the Coming Week:** Pray for continued opportunities to cultivate love for others and for the courage to take action in love.

**Don't forget to pick up your SERVE t-shirt on your campus this week if you don't already have one.**

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## Introduction

This week, we focus on the interplay between faith and works. Our study will delve into how true faith naturally leads to action, especially in the realm of service. As you go through this week, reflect on how your faith is being expressed through your actions.

## 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?

## Scripture Reading for the Week:

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

## CG Notes

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## The Challenge

- Discuss the relationship between faith and action in the context of the group’s service project.
- 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.

## My To-Do List

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## Prayer

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## Daily Devotionals

### Day 1: Faith Expressed Through Works

*What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? ... Faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.* — James 2:14-17

In the epistle of James, we encounter a compelling challenge: the call to demonstrate our faith through our actions. James makes it clear that while faith is the foundation of our relationship with God, it is through our deeds that this faith becomes alive and active in the world.

This passage prompts us to examine the authenticity of our faith. It's easy to profess faith in words, but it's in our actions where the true depth of our belief is revealed. Our actions are a reflection of what we truly believe and value. When we act in ways that align with Jesus' teachings, our faith is not just a concept, but a living, breathing reality that impacts the world around us.

Consider how you can put your faith into action in your daily life. It doesn't necessarily mean grand gestures or massive projects. Often, it's the small acts of kindness, the moments of compassion, the willingness to help, and the readiness to share that truly embody the spirit of Christ. Whether it's helping a neighbor, volunteering for a community project, showing patience in a difficult situation, or simply offering a listening ear, every act of service is a testament to your faith.

Today, reflect on the ways your actions can demonstrate your faith. How can you serve others in a manner that reflects the love and compassion of Christ? In what areas of your life can you be more proactive in translating your faith into practical deeds?

As you pray, ask God for wisdom and guidance. Pray for the insight to recognize opportunities for service and the courage to act on them. Seek a heart that is not only filled with faith but also compelled to express this faith through acts of kindness and service.

**Prayer:** *Heavenly Father, grant me the wisdom to understand how my faith can be expressed through my actions. Help me to see opportunities for service and kindness in my daily life and give me the courage to act on them. May my deeds reflect the depth and authenticity of my faith in You. Amen.*

## Day 2: The Importance of Perseverance

*Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.*

— Galatians 6:9

In his letter to the Galatians, Paul touches on a reality many of us face: the challenge of persisting in doing good. It's a gentle reminder that while the path of service and kindness can be rewarding, it can also be tiring, especially when the fruits of our labor are not immediately visible.

Doing good, in the Christian sense, is not just a sporadic act but a way of life. It's about continuously extending love, kindness, and generosity to those around us, even when it's not convenient or when we don't see instant results. Paul encourages us not to lose heart, reminding us that our efforts are not in vain. There is a promise of a harvest – a future reward for our perseverance in doing good.

Reflect on your journey of serving and doing good. Are there moments when you feel discouraged or tired? Maybe you've been helping someone without seeing any change, or you've been trying to make a positive impact in your community, but the progress seems slow.

Today, consider the long-term impact of your actions. Your persistent acts of kindness and service are like seeds planted, which in time, will grow and bear fruit. The impact of your efforts may not always be immediately evident, but they contribute to a greater good that often extends beyond your understanding.

In moments of weariness, it's essential to remember why we do good. Our motivation isn't for recognition or immediate returns, but out of love and obedience to Christ, who showed us the ultimate example of selfless service.

As you pray today, ask God for strength and perseverance. Pray for the resilience to continue doing good, even when it's challenging. Ask for encouragement in moments of weariness and for the faith to trust in the eventual harvest that your acts of kindness will bring.

**Prayer:** *Lord, grant me the strength and perseverance to continue doing good, even when it's challenging. Help me to remember the greater purpose behind my actions and to trust in the harvest that will come in Your perfect timing. Amen.*

## Week 3: Living Out Faith Through Actions

### Day 3: *The Call to Love One Another*

*Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.*

— Galatians 6:10

Paul's exhortation in Galatians 6:10 serves as a powerful reminder of our Christian calling: to actively seek out opportunities to do good to everyone, with a particular emphasis on our faith community. This directive challenges us to look beyond our immediate circles and comfort zones, encouraging us to extend kindness and generosity to all, irrespective of their background or beliefs.

Doing good to all people is an expression of God's own character. His love and compassion are not limited by boundaries or conditions, and as His followers, we are called to mirror this inclusive and expansive love. This means showing kindness not just to those who are easy to love, but also to those who might challenge us, who might think, believe, or live differently than we do.

Consider what doing good looks like in your daily life. It might be offering practical help, sharing resources, providing emotional support, or simply offering a kind word or a listening ear. It could mean volunteering your time for community projects, reaching out to a neighbor in need, or showing extra patience and understanding in your workplace or family.

Pay special attention to the phrase "especially to those who belong to the family of believers." This highlights the importance of supporting and caring for our fellow Christians. It's a call to foster a supportive, nurturing environment within our faith communities, where we bear one another's burdens and encourage each other in our walk with Christ.

Today, as you reflect on this scripture, ask God to open your eyes to the opportunities around you. Pray for the wisdom to recognize where you can make a difference and the courage to act. Whether it's a small act of kindness or a more significant gesture of support, every effort counts in building a community that reflects God's love and goodness.

**Prayer:** *Heavenly Father, guide me to do good to all people, especially those in my faith community. Help me to see the opportunities to show Your love and kindness every day. Give me the wisdom and courage to make a difference in the lives of those around me. Amen.*



## Day 4: Sharing and Doing Good

*And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.*

— Hebrews 13:16

In Hebrews 13:16, we are reminded of two vital aspects of our Christian walk: doing good and sharing with others. These actions are not merely suggested as good practices; they are presented as sacrifices that please God. This verse calls us to reflect on the profound impact of our generosity and kindness, both in pleasing God and in making a difference in the lives of others.

The concept of sharing in this context goes beyond mere material giving. It encompasses sharing our time, our talents, our resources, and even our presence. It's about being generous not just in what we have, but in who we are. Sharing in this way is a reflection of God's own generosity towards us, and it's an opportunity to show His love in tangible ways.

Similarly, doing good is about more than just avoiding harm. It's an active pursuit of actions that bring benefit, uplift, and blessing to others. It's looking for ways to be a positive force in the lives of those around us, whether through acts of service, words of encouragement, or simple gestures of kindness.

These actions – sharing and doing good – are described as sacrifices. In the biblical sense, sacrifices are acts of worship. They are offerings given to God, not out of obligation, but out of love and devotion. When we share and do good, we are essentially worshipping God through our actions. We are acknowledging that all we have is a gift from Him, and we are choosing to use these gifts to bless others.

Today, take some time to reflect on what you can share and how you can do good in your community. What resources, talents, or time do you have that could be used to bless others? How can you incorporate acts of kindness and generosity into your daily routine? Remember, even the smallest act of sharing or doing good can have a significant impact.

As you pray, ask God to guide you in how to share and do good effectively. Seek His wisdom in recognizing needs and opportunities. Pray for a heart that finds joy in generosity and finds purpose in serving others.

**Prayer:** *Lord, show me how to share what I have and to do good in my community. Help me to see these actions as acts of worship that please You. Guide me in using my resources, talents, and time to make a difference in the lives of others. Amen.*

## Week 3: Living Out Faith Through Actions

### Day 5: Living Out Your Faith

*But someone will say, “You have faith; I have deeds.” Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by my deeds. You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that—and shudder.*

**— James 2:18-20**

James challenges us with a powerful message about the nature of faith. He asserts that faith, if not accompanied by action, is insufficient. It's a bold statement that calls us to examine the authenticity and vitality of our faith. Are we merely believers in word, or do our actions reflect the deep conviction of our beliefs?

This passage encourages us to reflect on how our faith is manifested in our daily lives. It's about making our faith visible and tangible through our actions. True faith is dynamic and active; it influences our decisions, shapes our interactions, and motivates us to serve and love others as Christ did.

Consider the areas of your life where your faith could be more actively demonstrated. Perhaps it's in being more patient and understanding with your family, offering help to a struggling neighbor, or standing up for justice and truth in your workplace. Maybe it's about sharing your resources with those in need or offering your time to serve in your community or church.

James reminds us that even the demons believe in God's existence, but that mere belief is not enough. What sets us apart as followers of Christ is not just our acknowledgment of God's existence but our commitment to living out the principles He teaches. Our faith is made complete and mature as we actively embody the love, grace, and compassion of Jesus in our daily actions.

As you pray today, ask God for the courage and commitment to live out your faith. Pray for the strength to not only believe in Him but to also act on that belief. Ask Him to help you identify specific ways you can demonstrate your faith through your actions. Seek a faith that is vibrant and visible, one that actively impacts the world around you.

**Prayer:** *Heavenly Father, give me the courage and commitment to live out my faith through my actions. Help me to not just believe in You but to demonstrate that belief in how I live. Show me areas where I can actively practice my faith, making it visible and vibrant to those around me. Amen.*

## Day 6: Examen

At the end of the week, engage in the Examen to reflect on your experiences and feelings related to faith and action.

- 1. Gratitude:** Reflect on moments this week where you were able to live out your faith through action.
- 2. Review:** Look back over the week with God. Where did you see faith in action in yourself and others? Where could you have better expressed your faith?
- 3. Think About It:** Does faith come easy to you or is it difficult? Where have you seen God move through faith? Where would you like to see God move in your life?
- 4. Prayer:** Pray for faith! Ask God to help you in the areas where you struggle to express your faith. Pray that on the day of your project that you will listen to the Holy Spirit and respond in faith.
- 5. Hope for the Coming Week:** Pray for the discernment and strength to continue living out your faith through your actions in the coming week.

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# Week 4: The Impact of Service

## Introduction

In our final week, we explore the impact of service on both the giver and the receiver. You may have already completed your project, or you are in the final stages of planning. We'll examine how our acts of service reflected or can reflect God's love and potentially draw others closer to Him. As you go through this week, think about your SERVE project, and consider how you can or did make an impact on those around you.

## 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?

## Scripture Reading for the Week:

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

## CG Notes

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## The Challenge

- Discuss the impact or potential impact of the group's service project on both the group members and the beneficiaries.
- If your project is complete, spend more time on reflection. Otherwise spend this time finalizing project details.
- 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.

## My To-Do List

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## Prayer

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## Daily Devotionals

### Day 1: *Shining Your Light Through Service*

*“In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.” — Matthew 5:16*

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus teaches us about the visibility of a life lived in faith. He uses the metaphor of light to illustrate how our actions, especially our good works, can illuminate the love and grace of God in a world that often dwells in darkness.

This call to let our light shine is not just about personal morality or spiritual disciplines; it’s about how we engage with the world around us. Our good works – acts of kindness, generosity, compassion, and service – are not merely obligations; they are opportunities to reflect the character of Christ to those we encounter.

Consider your involvement in the upcoming service project. How can this be an avenue for your light to shine? Perhaps it’s in the attitude you bring, the care and attention you give to the tasks, or the way you interact with others. Each action, no matter how small, can be a powerful demonstration of God’s love.

As you reflect on this scripture, think about the ways in which your actions during the service project can bring glory to God. How can you ensure that your service is done with the right heart and attitude? Remember, it’s not just about completing a task; it’s about showing the world who Jesus is through our love and service.

Today, as you pray, ask God to help you shine your light through this service project. Pray that your actions will be a testament to your faith and a beacon of God’s love. Ask for the wisdom to serve with humility and joy, and for the ability to impact others positively through your involvement in the project.

**Prayer:** *Lord, as I engage in this service project, help me to shine Your light through my actions. May my service be a reflection of Your love and grace, bringing glory to Your name. Guide me to serve with a heart that reflects Your compassion and kindness, so that others may see You in me. Amen.*

## Day 2: Serving with Your Gifts

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

— 1 Peter 4:10

Peter's words in this verse remind us that each believer is endowed with unique gifts, talents, and abilities. These gifts are not just for our benefit; they are given to us so that we can serve others, acting as stewards of God's manifold grace. When we use our gifts to serve, we're essentially distributing God's grace in its various forms.

Take a moment to consider the gifts you've been blessed with. These could be tangible skills like cooking, teaching, or organizing, or they could be less tangible but equally important, like the ability to encourage, to listen, or to offer wise counsel. How often do you think of these gifts as tools for service?

In the context of your upcoming service project, think about how your gifts can be utilized. If you're good at planning, perhaps you can help organize the project. If you have a knack for encouraging others, maybe you can be a source of motivation and support for your team. Even gifts like patience and empathy can play a significant role in how you interact with and serve others during the project.

As you reflect on this scripture, ask God to reveal to you new and effective ways to use your gifts in service. Sometimes, we may overlook certain abilities or not consider them useful in a service context. Pray for creativity and openness to new ways of serving. Remember, when you use your gifts to serve others, you are reflecting God's character and love.

Today, as you pray, ask God to guide you in understanding and using your gifts for the service project. Pray for the discernment to know how best to contribute and for the willingness to serve in whatever capacity is needed. Ask God to use your service as a way to show His grace and love to those around you.

**Prayer:** *Heavenly Father, thank You for the unique gifts You have given me. Help me to understand how to use these gifts in serving others, especially in this service project. Guide me to serve effectively and joyfully, using my abilities to spread Your grace and love. Amen.*

## Week 4: The Impact of Service

### Day 3: Called to Serve in Love

*You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love.*

— Galatians 5:13

In Galatians 5:13, Paul speaks to a profound truth about our Christian liberty. While we are called to freedom, this freedom is not an excuse for self-indulgence, but rather an opportunity to serve others through love. This perspective shifts the focus from our rights and desires to how we can use our freedom to benefit others.

This call to serve others through love is at the heart of Christian service. It's a reminder that our actions should not be motivated by duty, recognition, or reward, but by genuine love and compassion for those we are serving. When love is the driving force behind our service, it changes not only the impact of what we do but also how we do it.

As you prepare for and engage in your service project, consider how this calling to serve in love can shape your approach. Serving in love might mean prioritizing the needs and well-being of others, even when it's inconvenient. It could involve going the extra mile to ensure that the people you are serving feel valued and cared for. It's about showing the same kind of selfless, sacrificial love that Christ showed us.

Reflect on your attitude and motives as you participate in the service project. Are you serving grudgingly or eagerly? Are your actions driven by love or by a sense of obligation? Remember, the greatest testimony we can give is not just the act of service itself, but the love that motivates it.

Today, as you pray, ask God to fill your heart with His love. Pray for the ability to serve others with joy and humility. Ask Him to help you see those you are serving as He sees them and to love them as He loves them. Pray that your service will be a clear reflection of Christ's love to all those you encounter.

**Prayer:** *Lord, thank You for the freedom You have given me in Christ. Help me to use this freedom to serve others in love. Fill my heart with Your love, and guide me to serve eagerly and humbly, reflecting Your love in all that I do. Amen.*



## Day 4: Reflecting on Service

*Rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.* — **Philippians 2:7**

Philippians 2:7 offers a profound glimpse into the heart of Jesus' mission on earth. In this passage, Paul describes how Jesus, though divine, chose to embrace humility by taking on the nature of a servant. This act of self-emptying is the pinnacle of service – God Himself choosing to serve humanity.

Jesus' life was a continuous stream of service. From healing the sick and feeding the hungry to teaching truth and ultimately sacrificing His life for our redemption, His every action was an embodiment of selfless service. He didn't just perform acts of service; He lived a life of service. This is the example we are called to follow.

As you engage in your service project, consider how Jesus' example can be reflected in your actions. Serving like Jesus means serving with humility, compassion, and selflessness. It's about putting the needs of others first, even when it's inconvenient or challenging. It's seeing people not as projects, but as individuals deeply loved and valued by God.

Reflect on the various ways Jesus served. He met physical needs, but He also met emotional and spiritual needs. He took time to listen, to build relationships, to offer hope and encouragement. In your service project, how can you go beyond the mere act of serving to truly connect with and uplift those you are serving?

As you pray today, seek inspiration from Jesus' example of service. Ask God to show you how to serve not just with your hands, but with your heart. Pray for the humility to serve in whatever capacity is needed, and for the wisdom to see and meet the deeper needs of those you are serving.

**Prayer:** *Heavenly Father, help me to serve others as Jesus did. Give me a heart of humility and compassion, and guide me in reflecting His love and grace through my service. May my actions in this service project not only meet physical needs but also convey Your deep love and care. Amen.*

# Week 4: The Impact of Service

## Day 5: The Joy of Giving

*In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: "It is more blessed to give than to receive."* — Acts 20:35

In Acts 20:35, we find a profound principle taught by Jesus and exemplified by Paul: the blessing inherent in giving. This scripture not only underscores the importance of supporting those in need but also highlights the deeper joy and fulfillment found in the act of giving itself.

Often, when we think about service and giving, our focus is on the sacrifice it entails – the time, resources, and effort we expend. However, this passage invites us to look at giving from a different perspective, one where we recognize the profound joy and blessing that comes with serving others.

As you prepare for and engage in your service project, consider the positive impact your giving can have, not just on those who receive but also on you as the giver. There's a unique joy that comes from being part of something larger than yourself, from knowing that your actions are making a real difference in someone's life. Serving others can bring a sense of purpose, fulfillment, and connection that enriches your own life.

Reflect on the joy that comes from giving. Perhaps you've experienced this in past instances where your acts of service brought smiles, relief, or hope to others. Envision the potential impact of your current service project. Think about the lives that can be touched and the positive change that can be fostered through your efforts.

Today, as you pray, ask God to bless your service project. Pray for the success of the project, not just in its execution but also in its ability to bring joy and blessings to everyone involved. Ask God to use your service as a means to spread His love and joy. Pray for those who will be on the receiving end, that they may feel the care and compassion behind your actions.

**Prayer:** *Lord, I pray for the success of our service project. May it bring immense joy and blessings to both those who give and those who receive. Use our efforts to spread Your love, and let this project be a source of hope, encouragement, and positive change. Amen.*

## **Day 6: Examen**

At the end of the week, engage in the Examen to reflect on your experiences related to service and your group’s SERVE project.

- 1. Gratitude:** Identify moments this week where you felt grateful for the opportunity to serve.
- 2. Review:** Reflect on the week with God, focusing on how you prepared for the service project. Where did you feel God’s guidance?
- 3. Think About It:** What are you most looking forward to regarding the project this week? What are you most nervous about?
- 4. Prayer:** Pray that God blesses the people you served or will serve this week. Pray for your next opportunity to serve.
- 5. Hope for the Coming Week:** Pray for the service project. If you’ve already completed the project, then pray for its lasting impact. Otherwise, pray for its planning, implementation, and impact. Ask for God’s presence to be felt throughout the project.

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# Thank You for SERVEing!

As we conclude our SERVE devotional series, it's a time for reflection, gratitude, and forward-looking inspiration. Over the past weeks, we've journeyed together through scriptures and reflections that have deepened our understanding of servant leadership, the joy of giving, and the essence of living a life reflective of Christ's love and service.

This journey was more than a series of devotionals; it was an invitation to embrace a lifestyle that goes beyond the walls of our church and into our daily lives. We've explored the significance of loving our neighbors, the interplay of faith and works, the importance of perseverance, and the beauty of serving with the gifts God has given us. These themes are not seasonal; they are the bedrock of a Christ-centered life.

As a church family, we've witnessed growth, shared experiences, and fostered a deeper sense of community. These moments of connection and transformation are what build us up as a body of Christ. They remind us that serving isn't just an action but a way of being that brings us closer to God and to each other.

Let us carry the insights and lessons learned into every aspect of our lives. May the spirit of service continue to flourish in our hearts, guiding us to act with love, humility, and generosity. We are called to shine our light through service, using our unique gifts to make a positive impact in the world around us.

Remember, the end of this series is not the end of our journey. It's a beginning, a renewed commitment to live out our faith through our actions every day. Let's inspire and support each other in this continuous journey, creating ripples of positive change that stem from our collective desire to serve as Jesus did.

Thank you for being part of this meaningful experience. May we all continue to grow, serve, and love in ways that glorify God and bring joy to those around us.







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