

Our Story/ God's Story: Micah

Hi brothers and sisters, this is Micah. Following the series that started with Britan's story last week, I get the opportunity to share with you this week how God has shaped my heart for service and how that journey led me to a deeper understanding of what it means to follow Christ.

I grew up in a Christian home where service wasn't just something we talked about—it was something we lived. My grandparents and parents showed me what it meant to serve the church. Every summer, I served alongside the bible school for children in addition to attending. Even on Sunday mornings, my dad and I would arrive early to set up the Sunday morning service.

Looking back, I realize God was planting seeds in my heart through these experiences. As 1 Peter 4:10-11 reminds us, "Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ." I was learning this truth long before I understood it.

Up until about 13 years old, I had been mostly going to church out of duty because my parents took me. But something shifted when I joined my first mission trip where we served local ministries for a week. During our preparation, we studied what it meant to be Christ's servant. I started reading my Bible daily and praying regularly. Toward the end of that week, the leadership called out to all of us students to see if anyone was ready to trust Jesus with their life. God was pulling me toward Him, and I responded. That night, I gave my life to the Lord.

Less than a year later, my family left our church, and we stopped attending altogether. I drifted away from the spiritual habits I had begun to develop. But God is faithful. I started dating my wife whose dad was a pastor at the local church. Soon after, I began attending church with her and her family, and soon my family joined us.

It was there that I truly learned about trusting God with my life's talents. I felt God calling me to get baptized, and after much prayer and study, I was baptized by my now father-in-law.

When Becca and I got married, we committed to make Christ the center of our marriage. We continue to this day serving at our church in many capacities. I learned from people in our church what it looks like to love others as Christ loved us and do so through a servant's heart. Through this, I've learned so much about being not just a Christian, but a servant of Christ who shares the gospel with others.

During my time in Sierra Leone in February, serving with the ILF team there, I felt God calling me to serve in whatever way He needs. I serve ILF with the strength and talents that God has provided me and because I truly believe Jesus called me to faithfully follow.

This brings us back to 1 Peter 4:10-11 where Peter reminds us that we each have gifts and we should faithfully use those in service to others. This verse has become central to my understanding of what it means to follow Jesus and serve others.

Here's what I want you to take away from my story: God doesn't call the qualified; He qualifies the called. Whether you're serving in your church, your team, or your family, God can use your willingness to serve for His glory.

The challenges you're facing—whether it's family struggles, job stress, or personal trials—are opportunities for God to show His faithfulness. When you feel overwhelmed, remember that God is your refuge and strength.

My journey from a kid setting up our church to serving in ILF has taught me that God uses ordinary people who are willing to serve. He doesn't need perfect people—He needs willing hearts.

So I encourage you: look for ways to serve where you are. Start small if you need to. But start somewhere. Because when we serve others with the strength God provides, we're not just helping them—we're growing closer to the heart of God and bringing Him glory.

Let me close with a prayer: Lord, thank You for the gifts You've given each of us. Help us to use them faithfully in service to others, trusting in Your strength rather than our own. May our service bring glory to Your name and draw us closer to Your heart. Amen.