

**HOPE**  
Impact Others  
May 17, 2015

*"I pray that God, the source of hope, will fill you completely with joy and peace because you trust in him. Then you will overflow with confident hope through the power of the Holy Spirit."*  
(NLT) Romans 15:13

**Where can you serve?**

There are 3 primary areas that we need your help:

- 1) Coastal Kids
- 2) Student Ministry
- 3) First Impressions Team

**Coastal Kids** is our largest ministry on Sunday mornings – **40**

*"For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago."*  
(NLT) Ephesians 2:10

*"There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit is the source of them all. There are different kinds of service, but we serve the same Lord. God works in different ways, but it is the same God who does the work in all of us. A spiritual gift is given to each of us so we can help each other."*  
Corinthians 12:4-7 (NLT) 1

**Student Ministry** is preparing students for what is ahead - **15**

**First Impressions Team** is our front line - **15**

*"For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many."*  
Mark 10:45 (NLT)

**When can you start?** It starts today

**Leadership Tip!**

Use this week's focus to emphasize the value - impact others. Serve as a group and encourage everyone to serve in some capacity on Sunday mornings. Help share the vision for both the church and the Life Groups as we serve and impact others.

**HOPE - Impact Others****STARTER QUESTION:**

**Have you seen your focus change this past week? Where is an area you saw improvement?**

**MAIN IDEA:**

Our final week in the Hope series concluded with a huge emphasis on serving and volunteering. As a church we are heading into a season where we are expecting to reach more people than ever before. In order to make sure we are fully prepared we are in need of extra help when it comes to our three key areas for serving:

- Coastal Kids
- Student Ministries (Middle School and High School)
- First Impressions Team

**If you currently aren't serving in a ministry on Sundays is there a role that you think would be a good fit for you?**

**If you are serving already on Sundays, do you have the capacity to add an additional role for the next few months until the end of the year to help?**

If you haven't signed up to start serving we encourage you to seriously pray about where God could use you. Every single role on Sundays helps us reach people with the Good News about Jesus. This may seem far fetched at times, but the truth is that if people are turned off from the moment they pull in the parking lot they will likely never come back.

Let's take a deeper look at some of the Scriptures from Sunday's message:

**Service is meeting the needs of others with our gifts, talents, and time.** Let's look at what Paul says about it in the book of Ephesians:

**Ephesians 2.10 (NLT)**

***"For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago."***

We are created to serve. It's in our DNA and it's been a part of God's plan for us since the beginning. When we serve together there is something even more beautiful that takes place as a family of God.

**Have you ever felt like you were created to do something that involved serving or helping others?**

In order to truly help serve, it is important to know how God has wired us. We offer an in depth look at this through 301-Serve, one of our Coastal Classes.

**Have you ever taken 301-Serve If so, what is something you learned about yourself? If not, are you planning to in the near future?**

You need to know what you are good at and how God has wired you. The Bible has many places that talk about our spiritual gifts. Let's look at one example in 1 Corinthians 12 -

**1 Corinthians 12:4-7 (NLT)**

***“There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit is the source of them all. There are different kinds of service, but we serve the same Lord. God works in different ways, but it is the same God who does the work in all of us. A spiritual gift is given to each of us so we can help each other.”***

**What is an area that you feel like you could help and begin to serve based on your gifts and talents? If you are already serving, do you see your gifts being used well in this area?**

Ultimately there are times when we think that the difference we can make by helping someone find a parking space is minimal at best. All three of these ministries, as well as others that exist on Sundays, are all helping to make it as inviting and easy as possible for people to meet Jesus.

**That's the entire goal - to remove any obstacles that would prevent them from hearing the most amazing news that this world has to offer.**

Everything we do, we do for the sake of the gospel. We serve to help others and every time we serve we do it because we see our Savior doing it all throughout the gospels. Jesus says -

**Mark 10:45 (NLT)**

***“For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many.”***

We want to serve to impact others, but we also serve because Jesus teaches us to by following His example. There is a part of this that should come from a desire to serve and also out of obedience to Christ. We need to serve and we want to serve. The new building will be a great space for ministry to happen while people hear about Jesus and grow closer to Him. The task of stewardship is now placed before all of us. How we steward this building and the ministries in it will either be one of our greatest strengths or our greatest weaknesses.

**Final Question:**

**What is God saying to you as you reflect on your possible impact?**

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## **ACTION STEPS:**

Sign up to serve. Contact one of the 3 ministries and find a place you can serve. (Coastal Kids, Student Ministries, or First Impressions Team)

Sign up for the next 301-Serve to figure out how God has wired you and where you could use your talents and gifts.

Hold each other accountable to serving and impacting others, specifically on Sundays.

## **FINAL THOUGHTS:**

The impact we make in those we encounter become the very thing we have been talking about the past six weeks - hope. Hope is what we want to give people who are coming in burdened, tired, beaten, hungry, and desperate. The hope we are offering isn't about a building or even a volunteer position, it is about the saving power of Jesus Christ.

We believe that we can make more of a difference when we come together than we ever could on our own. This is why the Bible talks so much about the Church being a body and a whole unit. We are designed to work together and offer the hope we have been talking about.

### **Romans 15:13 (NLT)**

***I pray that God, the source of hope, will fill you completely with joy and peace because you trust in him. Then you will overflow with confident hope through the power of the Holy Spirit.***

## FAMILY FOCUS:

Here is a conversation about how little acts of kindness can make a difference.

Do small things really create movement?

If our world was, in fact, water in the sink . . .

And, if each act of kindness was something we dropped in the water, then we have two questions:

Our first question: If small acts of kindness create ripples, can there be an act of kindness that is too small to create ripples?

Our second question: Can many small acts of kindness together create as many ripples as a large one?

Grab a bunch of items of differing sizes to represent different sizes of acts. Here are some small things you can use to test the theory and answer our questions:

Sprinkles (the kind you put on cookies, we grabbed the smallest: colored sugar)

Little rubber bands

Marshmallows

Toothpicks

Leaves (big and little)

An average rock.

Fill the sink with water and start testing the theory.

First, the rock, representing a larger service project: like pulling weeds from a neighbor's yard or visiting a nursing home. This will create the largest splash.

Second, a leaf, representing a "regular-sized" service project: like making someone a meal, handing a hygiene kit to someone in need, or inviting a new friend over to play.

The result: There should be ripples.

Next, a toothpick, a "regular" act of kindness: like writing a nice note to someone, taking a treat to a neighbor, or giving out a homeless care kit.

The result: There should still be ripples.

Then, a little rubber band, still smallish acts of kindness: like telling someone a joke or picking up a toy they dropped without being asked.

The result: There should be ripples, even with a single rubber band.

Last, a sprinkle, representing the smallest act of kindness: like holding the door for someone or saying HI.

The result: There should still be ripples, from a single sprinkle!

Whooo-hoooooo!

Talk about whether all the little things, together, can make as many ripples as the single fossil does.

Lots of sprinkles make as much movement in the water as the average rock does.

Lots of little rubber bands make as much movement in the water as the average rock does.

The leaves do not make as much of a movement in the water, but the leaves themselves still move across the span of the sink.

Lots of toothpicks make as much movement in the water as the average rock does, maybe even more.

End by asking: "So, do you think that we can help others by doing little things as well as with big things?"

Even a grain of salt causes ripples in the water.