Practicing the Way: Service, p. 2

October 10, 2026

Practicing the Way: Service, Week 2

October 11, 2026

Service: loving others through meeting their practical needs

> *…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."*
>
> *—Jesus, Matthew 20:28*

Globally
• 830 million people are living on less than $3.00 a day
• 50 million people are living in slavery

Locally - St. Charles County
• 21,000 people are living below the U.S. Poverty Line
• The annual income for the U.S. poverty line is $30,000 lower than the acutal cost of living in St. Charles County

Human Responses to the Needs Around Us:
• Guilt
• Deflection
• Denial
• Rationalization
• Ignorance

As followers of Jesus, we are <u>Saved</u> to serve.

> *But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.…For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith - and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God - not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are*

God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

—Paul, Ephesians 2:4-5, 8-10

As followers of Jesus, we are <u>Gifted</u> to serve.

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 speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.

—1 Peter 4:10-11

Matthew 25:14-30 - The Parable of the Bags of Gold

As followers of Jesus, we are <u>Called</u> to serve.

"Called" - *kaleo* - to invite, to give a name to, bear a name or title

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. For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself."

—Paul, Galatians 5:13-14

As followers of Jesus, we are <u>Transformed</u> through serving.

• When we care about what God cares about, we align our hearts with His and <u>become</u> more like Him.
• In order to keep serving well, we have to <u>rely</u> on Christ.

To learn more about International Justice Mission, go here: <u>https://www.ijm.org</u>

Invitation to Service:
• Keep your heart <u>soft</u>…

Whoever oppresses the poor shows contempt for their

Maker,but whoever is kind to the needy honors God.

—Proverbs 14:31

For I know how many are your offenses and how great your sins. There are those who oppress the innocent and take bribes and deprive the poor of justice in the courts.

—Amos 5:12

The people of the land practice extortion and commit robbery; they oppress the poor and needy and mistreat the foreigner, denying them justice.…So I will pour out my wrath on them and consume them with my fiery anger, bringing down on their own heads all they have done, declares the Sovereign Lord."

—Ezekiel 22:29, 31

Their evil deeds have no limit; they do not seek justice. They do not promote the case of the fatherless; they do not defend the just cause of the poor. Should I not punish them for this?" declares the Lord. "Should I not avenge myself on such a nation as this?"

—Jeremiah 5:28b-29

• Keep your heart soft…and trust God with the outcome.

Joy is the oxygen of doing hard things.

—Gary Haugen, Founder of IJM

• Start where you are.
• Do something.
• Make it a habit.

To learn about ways you can serve our community through Morning Star Church, please visit https://www.mscwired.org/local-outreach

Discussion Questions

• Service is loving someone through meeting their practical needs. What is one way that someone in your life has served you? What was that experience like for you?

• Read 1 Peter 4:10. What gifts, abilities, resources, or experiences has God given you that you could use to meet the needs of others?

• Read Matthew 25:14-30. Have you ever been like the third servant in the parable, and held back from serving because you felt inadequate, feared failure, or just weren't sure what to do?

• Think about the places you go to frequently and hte people you see regularly. What is one practical need you could help meet this week? What could get in the way of you meeting that need? What would encourage you to meet that need?

• Serving transforms us to become more like Jesus. When we care about what God cares about, our hearts become more aligned with His. How have you seen serving others change your perspective, priorities, or relationship with God?

• Read Galatians 5:13-14. What is the difference between serving out of guilt and serving out of the freedom and love we have received through Jesus?