

Monuments 05: "Service"
John 5:16-19

August 31, 2025

Main Idea: Service is about joining God in what He is doing!

Deer season is rapidly approaching! In short order there will be hunters in the woods, wearing their camouflage, being as still and quiet as they can be, attempting to gain the advantage on their choice of wild game. If you spend years in the woods, you will learn that an animal, even one you are looking for, can be standing directly in front of you, in the middle of a wide-open field even, and you may not see it for a long time! You can walk up on a black colored snake contrasted by the green grass around it and not see it until it moves. With experience and a keenly trained eye, we get better at spotting these things. We learn to look for certain kinds of motion and colors that stand out against the backdrops of the woods and fields.

Service in God's kingdom is similar. We often set out knowing what it is we want to accomplish yet the very thing we are looking for is right in front of us the whole time. Rather than setting out on our own to get something done, we need to learn to see what God is doing and synchronize ourselves and our efforts with what is going on around us. When we do this, we gain access to power and momentum that we would not otherwise have. Then, we don't have to ask God to bless our efforts. We simply join in with what He is already blessing.

To the Book:

Read John 5:16 – The religious leaders of the day were concerned with their way of religion and attempted to attack Jesus for the work He was doing. Prioritizing human ambition rather than joining God can be dangerous!

Read V. 17 – Jesus' reply corrected the leaders. God is always working and thus, so is Jesus. While God did rest on the Sabbath after creation, all of creation is dependent upon God simply for it to be sustained. God's activity is always ongoing simply for everything we know to have life and remain in existence.

Read V. 18-19 – The leaders doubled down on their hatred towards Jesus and he further explained that He is dependent upon God and only doing what He sees God is doing. His attention was on the Father and the Father's will rather than doing His own thing.

Service is about recognizing that God is always at work. He is always providing us with opportunity in the lives of those all around us. Our motivation can only carry us so far. The sooner we recognize God-given opportunity and engage, the more fulfilled and gratifying our lives will be. God will take our service and amplify it in ways that only He can when we do the work that He is already blessing.

Service Tips:

- Start with prayer. Ask God to show you where He is already working.
- Stay attentive. There are opportunities around us always. Be on the lookout for them!
- Step in with joy. Be ready to engage opportunity. Do it with the hope of Christ & expectation that He will bless!

Family Night Big Idea: All that we do is a chance to serve God!

Read: Colossians 3:23-24 – The motivation to serve needs to be based upon God who rewards faithfulness.

Elementary School: Ask, "How can you help a friend or classmate that seems sad or is struggling?"

Middle/High School: Ask, "Why are our efforts better when we try to honor God with everything we do?"

Pray: "Lord, help us prioritize You in everything we do. Help us serve others in ways that point to You Amen."

Velocity (Middle and High School Students)

Velocity: Meets this Wednesday, September 3rd.

Gravity: NOT Today. It is fifth Sunday.

Today's Songs

Great Things.....Phil Wickham

We Believe.....Newsboys

Death Was Arrested.....North Point Worship

Grandparents Day

Next Sunday, Sept. 7, all grandparents are welcome to join us in KidsJAM at 10:35 for a celebration!

Kenya Christmas 2025 Donations

We are collecting money for Mission Thome Christmas. Our goal is \$20,000 and we have already received \$16,167.00. You can give online or write "Kenya Christmas" in the remarks line of your check. Thank you for your generosity!

Savannah Bananas

If you purchased a ticket from the church, remember the game is October 2nd.

Velocity Ski Trip

Time to sign up online for Ski Trip on January 16-19, 2026.