

**Get in the Game-2**  
**“Serving”**  
**1 Peter 4:7-11 (NIV)**

Hey Newsong!

I want to take a second and welcome all of our first-time guests and those worshipping with us online!

We're in a teaching series called “Get in the Game” and as you can see, today is Jersey Day...everyone is repping their favorite sports team!

Following Jesus isn't about sitting on the sidelines and being entertained...It's about getting in the game...

In fact, the Apostle Paul compares the Christian life to running in a race...

Series Verse

***24 Don't you realize that in a race everyone runs, but only one person gets the prize? So run to win!-1 Corinthians 9:24 (NLT)***

Run to win! Get in the game! Last week we talked about how all of us need to join a team. The team is the local church...the owner of the team is King Jesus!

We talked about the importance of being in a biblical community...living life together...why church attendance and life groups are so important in our walk with God...

And we ended the day with a challenge...no matter where you are on your spiritual journey take your next step...

Maybe you're committed to watching online...then the challenge is for you to get to the house in person...

If you live too far away, then contact us and let us help you find a good church in your neighborhood...

Maybe you come to the house but you only come once every few weeks...I asked you to give us 4 weeks...Come 4 weeks in a row and see the difference it makes in your life!

Then there are those who come consistently on Sunday, but that's it...you're not connected to any of our life groups, or Bible studies, or fun events...It's time to take your next step...Get in the game! Run to win!

***7 The end of all things is near. Therefore be alert and of sober mind so that you may pray. 8 Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. 9 Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling.***

**10 Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. 11 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 4:7-11 (NIV)**

Every team has a position that needs to be played. So if Newsong is your church that means that you're already on the team...now today we're going to talk for just a few minutes about choosing your position on the team! It's time to get in the game with serving!

## **Pray**

Today is Super Bowl Sunday. It's the most watched game on the planet...

It's the day where the NFC champion Sanfransico 49ers will play against the AFC champion Kansas City Chiefs...to see who is the best of the best!

This is the day when each member of the team has to not only show up, but they need to be ready to get in the game...to do their job...to use their talents to help win the game!

Now imagine for a moment that just before kick off one of the starting line ups decides "you know...I don't feel like playing today, I think I'll just watch..."

Now that doesn't happen in sports, but you know where it does happen? Churches. In most churches about 20% of the members serve while 80% of the members watch...

Three reasons why we should get in the game and start serving

We all have **GIFTS** to use

***10 Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others,***

You and I were born with natural talents and abilities...Some of you are naturally good at building things, (I am not)

Some of you love numbers and calculations, you love designing, for others it's music, or sports...my point is that all of us have some sort of talent...some ability that we have at a higher level than others...

You were born with natural talents and abilities but you were born-again with spiritual gifts!

When you repented of your sin and trusted in Jesus to be the Lord and Savior of your life, You were given a spiritual gift.

*“A spiritual gift is a special supernatural ability that God gives to each of His children, so that together we can advance His purposes in this world.”-Chris Hodges*

Now we're not going to take a deep dive into spiritual gifts today, however, if you want to learn more about your spiritual gifts, I want you to register for our Growth Track today before you leave...It starts on Friday February 23rd @7pm...

In the growth track we'll help you discover your spiritual gifts...and many of you have done that, but you kind of stopped there, so I want to challenge you to take your gift and join a team so that you can develop your gift, and use it to help us move the ball down the field!

So the bottom line is this...

You have natural talents that you were born with...

And Peter tells us that every Christian has been given at least one spiritual gift that we were born again with...

You may not feel gifted enough to be on a team, but God says you are! He not only says you're gifted...

God expects us all to **USE** the gifts

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

God doesn't give us spiritual gifts so that we can feel good about ourselves...God gives us the gifts to serve others...He expects us to be faithful stewards or managers of the gifts He's given us.



In other words we don't own the gift, we manage it for the benefit of others in the context of the local church...

Every time you serve you're using your gift for God's glory and for advancing His Kingdom! It doesn't matter what position you play...every position is needed and every position helps us fulfill our mission!

***18 But in fact God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be.-1 Corinthians 12:18 (NIV)***

Now maybe you're here today and you're visiting, but you have a home church that you attend faithfully, that's the body that God has placed you in...that's the team where you should find your position.

But if Newsong is your church...this means that God has placed you here...

And wants you to use your gifts here...He expects you to be a faithful steward...A co-laborer in the mission...He expects us to get in the game...not just sit up in the comfy sky box and watch the game with Taylor Swift...

Now here's the thing...In most churches, people would rather get in, get their worship on, receive a good word, and go...

Maybe it's because they don't realize what God expects from them...maybe they feel like they don't have anything to offer...maybe it's because every week, all of the ministries are clicking...

You come in and everything is set up, the discipleship team is ready to teach...the greeters are smiling, Kidsong is ready for your kids, the worship team is singing, the ushers are there to help you find your seat...

So you might feel like there isn't a need...so  
this scripture doesn't apply to you...  
We all have gifts to use...  
God expects us to use those gifts...  
How do we do that?

God gives us the **POWER** to serve

***11 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.***

God calls you, He equips you, and He empowers you to do the work of the ministry...  
"I thought only pastors were called into ministry"  
No, pastors are called to a type of ministry...pastors are called to teach you how to do the ministry...

***11 So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, 12 to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up-Ephesians 4:11-12 (NIV)***

God's people are called to the ministry and you don't retire from service...You don't get too busy for it... He gives you the power and the grace to do it!

“But I've got kids”...Yes many of our team members have small children...and there's days where it isn't easy...but God gives Husbands and Wives the strength...He gives them the patience...He gives them the grace to be able to use their gifts to further the mission!

And guess what? When you bring your children to church and they see you serving you're teaching your children that this is what a child of God is supposed to do!

We have families that serve together...that is so amazing to me!

We have people who work 40+ hours per week...who serve faithfully on a Sunday, or they lead a Life Group...we have people who are retired and now volunteer to help us in the office...

What I'm saying is you may be tired, but God will give you the strength to do it...He wants you to get in the game!

Now here's the thing. In tonight's game whoever has the most points by the time the clock runs out is declared the winner...

The church is different...

Our mission is to reach people who are far away from God and help them become fully-devoted followers of Jesus one step at a time...

Everytime you show up and serve...Every piece of equipment you set up...Every Time a first-time guest is welcomed with a smile and seated...

Everytime you minister to their children so that they can focus on what God is saying through the worship and the Word being preached...and make a decision to follow Jesus...you are part of the win!

This game isn't just for 60 minutes...  
Our game is until Jesus comes back...  
And everything we do to advance His Kingdom for His glory is adding points to the scoreboard in Heaven...

The question for you today is are you serving others with your gifts? It's time to get in the game!

As we come to a close today, you will notice that we have tables set up all around our sanctuary. Each table represents a different position on the team...

Every Team has immediate openings...

If you're not serving I'm going to ask you to take your next step and check out all of the areas where you could use your gifts and talents...

If you haven't taken Growth Track, please register so you can discover your talents!

You see the 49ers and Chiefs are playing for bragging rights and a trophy...The winner gets the glory...But that glory fades...

What we do...that impacts eternity! Imagine if we didn't have enough people to do what we needed to do on a Sunday? We're a church who believes it's not about us...

It's not so we can be seen or heard...we do what we do so that others can know Jesus...and it's our passion... it's our heart...We want to plunder hell and populate heaven...it's not for our glory it's for God's glory!

**What's the Holy Spirit Saying to you?**