

Life Group Guide “Serving”

September 23-28 2018

Prep: This week, we will be focusing on the concept of “giving ourselves.” Our heart is to empower each person to see that they are never disqualified from serving others, and that they can change the world around them by doing so. Please be ready to direct people to rcalvary.org/serve as a great next step. Some individuals will feel that they do not have much to bring to the table. Be ready to pray for them and speak encouragement into them! Empowering people to serve will change their lives forever, and grow the kingdom of God in every environment they touch. This is a big deal!

Please make sure to review the material in the guide so you are prepared for the conversation in your Life Group.

Welcome:

Take a few minutes to reconnect with your group.

Video:

Show the video. It is about 3 minutes long. It will set up the conversation on servanthood

Scripture:

1 Peter: 4:10-11

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.

Ephesians 2:10

⁸ For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— ⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast. ¹⁰ For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Reflection/Vision Statement Time

- We recommend taking about 4-5 minutes for people to reflect after the passage. But before you do, say something like:
 - “I encourage you to first take a couple minutes to reflect on this passage and the video, come up with any questions, connections, or what the passages says to you tonight.” Ask people to think about what these passages say about *how* we should serve and *why* we should give of ourselves.

Questions for Discussion:

(Choose your favorites ahead of time that you think will benefit your group the most)

Question: What is one time that someone served you exceptionally well? What did they sacrifice in order to do that for you?

Question: 1 Peter talks about how we should use our gifts. In what ways have you seen others in the group use their gifts for God?

Observation: Ephesians 2 shows us that God has set the example of how to give ourselves. It says that he gave the gift of grace, which required him to suffer and sacrifice.

Question: What barriers do you think Jesus had to push through in order to live a life submitted to serving the people he loved? How did he break through these barriers?

Observation: It's clear in scripture that God has called us to live a lifestyle of serving. However, we face real barriers to this (lack of time, fear of failure, feeling unqualified, fatigue)

Question: Judging from the two passages, what resources has God given to us to push through these barriers?

(Example answer: his voice, his strength, and his grace)

Observation: From 1 Peter 4, it talks about a steward. A steward is a servant who is entrusted to care for and *grow* the resources of his or her master.

Question: If we are God's stewards, what has he specifically entrusted us to care for and multiply?

Question: What does it look like for us to grow the gifts that God has already deposited in us?

Question: 1 Peter mentions that we are stewards of God's grace in *its various forms*. How do we as individuals share the same grace as other believers, but allow its release to be unique to us?

Observation Lead In: Ephesians 2 says that we have been saved by grace, and not by works. Then, it follows to say that we have been created to do good works.

Question: How do we reconcile that we are created to do good works, but not saved by them?

Observation Lead In: Without serving, we lose purpose and meaning from our lives. We get disconnected from our divine calling. However, when we place our identity completely in what we can *do* for other people, we become imprisoned to expectations.

Question: Do you feel more prone to inactivity or placing your value on what you do?

Prayer:

(LIFE GROUP LEADERS): Pray for those who are struggling to find out what they feel like they can serve people with. Pray for those who feel imprisoned either to apathy or to works righteousness. Open up some time for people to share where they are at with their serving journey, and minister to them out of that place.