

Life Group Guide

Serve the Church - Romans 12:4-5
Foundational Practice: Serving Faithfully

1. Last week Josh mentioned that when it comes to serving our city, we may hold a disposition of indifference, anger towards the city (seeking God's judgment on it), or that we conform to the city. However, he also mentioned that there was a fourth way, ***choosing to engage in the city the way that God is for the city***. After hearing last week's message, what has God impressed on you about being for the city and seeking its welfare? Were there any areas of the city that came to mind in which you can engage in? Did anyone try the experience from last week about driving around different neighborhoods that you don't normally visit? How was that experience?
2. What is your experience when it comes to serving at your local church? If you haven't, have you thought about serving in any ministries?
3. Read Romans 12:4-5 out loud as a Life Group. What stands out to you in this passage and why? What caught your attention in the teaching of this passage?
4. Just as human bodies have different parts that serve us, so are the many members of the "big church" needed to serve the Body of Christ in which we are one. How does it change your perspective to know that God has placed each member in the Body as He desired? How does it affect you to know that you belong and matter Body?
5. Here at the well we often use the metaphor of cruise ship vs battleship. Knowing now that we are one in the Body of Christ, we are further called to participate in doing good works towards one another (Hebrews 10:24-25). We are also exhorted to serve for the common good with the giftings he has given (1 Corinthians 12:4-7). **We are a battleship**. How has God uniquely made you (giftings, talents, skills, passions, etc) to be able to participate in the Body of Christ to encourage one another? How are you currently serving? What has been keeping you from serving?
6. In Ephesians 4:11-12 it states that Christ gave various types of leaders to equip the saints for works of service. A saint is "one who is set apart, made holy", those who have put their faith in Christ. According to the sermon, church staff today are here to equip members in the same way. In what ways could you be equipped to better serve the church?
7. In all of these things, being one in the Body of Christ and stirring up one another to do good works, ***it is all by the same Spirit!*** Oftentimes when we hear these types of messages it can lead to exercising them on our own strength instead of His. When you have served out of your own guilt/striving, what have been the results? When you served according to God's leading and power, how was it different?

Closing Practice: Take a moment and remember that we serve because Christ first served. "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and give His life a ransom for many" Mark 10:45. It is our response to his love towards his creation that we love just as he has loved. Take time now and enter into prayer "Lord, do I love people the way you love people? Lord, how have I been serving, by walking in my flesh or walking in the Spirit? Lord teach me what it means to serve the way Christ has served". Also please explore the website and explore the different areas to serve in the church (serve a group, greeting team, worship, kids ministry, etc).