

**40*****days of community***What on earth  
are *we* here for?

## Serving Together

### We're Called to Serve Together

Just as Christ came to serve us, so we, too, as His followers, are called to serve one another. While we tend to focus on meeting our own wants and needs, there is something about serving others that makes life much more meaningful. Because we are made in the image of God, the ultimate Giver, when we give ourselves away in service, we have a great sense of fulfilling our purpose. However, it is much easier to talk about serving than to actually do it. We have the barriers of over-commitment, business, self-absorption, and lack of confidence, to name a few.

That is why it is good to be in a group that serves together, because together we can take steps to overcome these hindrances. The first of these steps to engaging in a lifestyle of service is to make ourselves

available. This is really an attitude adjustment, because most of us are so intent on our own agenda that it is difficult to divert to help someone else. Our small group, though, can encourage us to be eager to help someone else as needs arise. The second step flows out of this. Having made the commitment as a group to be available, we must then serve together as a team. This enables us to stay encouraged in the process, and helps us to achieve maximum effectiveness as we each contribute our special ability to the act of service. A third step of serving one another well is to purposefully think of others more than ourselves. This is the essence of true humility, the foundation of service. It is not "thinking less of our-



**Discovering God's purposes for our lives works better together**

elves, but thinking of ourselves less". It is much easier to serve when others are our focus. Finally, every act of service must be characterized by equal dedication. Whether it is cleaning someone's house, or providing moral support for them as they go to see someone important, we must give each act of service "our best shot". When we serve others in these ways together, we show the world what God's servant heart is like.

### The 5 Purposes of the Purpose Driven Life

- Worship—You were planned for God's pleasure
- Fellowship—You were formed for God's family
- Discipleship—You were created to become like Christ
- Ministry—You were shaped for serving God
- Evangelism—You were made for a mission

## Study Questions for Next Week

*(To be used as a companion to the "Better Together" devotional guide)*

Day 29—Read Galatians 5:13. How much serving do you do in everyday life, and in the church? Why do you do it, and what keeps you from doing it more?

Day 30—Read Galatians 6:2. Is there anyone in your small group that is facing a special burden (or someone in your life)? Ask God to show you how you can help them carry that burden today.

## Serving Together—Study Questions

Day 31—Read Acts 2:44. Take an inventory of your possessions. What do you have that you could pass on to someone in need? Ask God for the ability to let go of it, and to show you the right person to bless with it.

Day 32—Read 1 Peter 5:5. How easy is it for you to forget your agenda long enough to give someone a helping hand? Why is this kind of humility such an indispensable ingredient in developing true community?

Day 33—Read 1 Peter 4:10. Think about your unique “shape”. What are 2 or 3 things that you do really well, or are really passionate about? How could you help someone else in your small group through one of these things this week?

Day 34—Read 1 John 3:16. Write down some sacrifices others have made that have blessed your life. Think of a sacrifice you could make for someone today that would bless them—be specific—and ask God to lead you to carry it out.

Day 35—Read 1 Corinthians 3:9. Think about your small group—how does each member of your group bring something special “to the table”? What is your unique contribution, and how are you doing that?

### Scripture to Remember

*“By helping each other with your troubles, you truly obey the law of Christ.”*

**Galatians 6:2 NCV**

### ***Celebration Fellowship***

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### Life Group Questions—Growing Together

*(Using questions based on today's message, Life Groups meet in homes to build supportive relationships with others at Celebration Fellowship that enable us to grow in Christ.)*

1. Think of a couple of people that are a blessing to you in life. Share with the group how they help you.
2. Discuss some of the reasons that it is sometimes hard to accept others. Why is acceptance so important to be able to help one another grow?
3. What are some practical ways to show one another attention, affection, and appreciation so that the opportunity for mutual growth occurs?
4. Which of the following do you need the most—prayer for growth, ability to admit your mistakes, or encouragement to grow? Which is hardest to give?
5. Of the 5 commitments that lead to growth (loving Jesus, small group and loving others, God's Word, service, sharing your witness), which do you need to focus on most, and why?
6. Discuss anything else that impressed you from the message today if you have time.