The Week of April 18, 2021
Serving
Conversation Guide

This Week's Take-Aways

- **I am engaged in the church:** (Acts 2:46-47) I consistently connect with my church body for fellowship and community while using my spiritual gifts for ministry and encouragement.

- **I engage in the missionary task wherever I am:** (Matthew 28:18-20) Through both my words and actions, I engage in gospel conversations with those around me. I take the gospel around the world by going, give, pray and send others.

Intro Questions

- What was your first job? Did it involve serving people?

- Do you consider yourself a people-person or a task-person?

- What is the favorite volunteer position you've ever had?

- Do you feel you have a role to play in the church or community?

When I serve, I make a difference

- Read Acts 9:36-42 (NLT)

  There was a believer in Joppa named Tabitha (which in Greek is Dorcas). She was always doing kind things for others and helping the poor. About this time she became ill and died. Her body was washed for burial and laid in an upstairs room. But the believers had heard that Peter was nearby at Lydda, so they sent two men to beg him, "Please come as soon as possible!" So Peter returned with them; and as soon as he arrived, they took him to the upstairs room. The room was filled with widows who were weeping and showing him the coats and other clothes Dorcas had made for them. But Peter asked them all to leave the room; then he knelt and prayed. Turning to the body he said, "Get up, Tabitha." And she opened her eyes! When she saw Peter, she sat up! He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then he called in the widows and all the believers, and he presented her to them alive. The news spread through the whole town, and many believed in the Lord.

  - Why was Dorcas so important to her friends and neighbors?

  - What was her impact on her friends and neighbors? On the community?

  - A good leadership exercise is to think about the lasting-impact you will have made at end of your life. Take a few minutes and contemplate the ways you can have an eternal impact in your life.

- Read Ephesians 2:10 (HCSB)

  For we are His creation, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared ahead of time so that we should walk in them.

  - Why were you created?

    - Is it your job to fulfill God's plan?

When I serve, I get a chance to imitate Christ

- Read Philippians 2:1-8 (CSB)

  If, then, there is any encouragement in Christ, if any consolation of love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any affection and mercy, make my joy complete by thinking the same way, having the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility consider others as more important than yourselves. Everyone should look not to his own interests, but rather to the interests of others.

  Adopt the same attitude as that of Christ Jesus, who, existing in the form of God, did not consider equality with God as something to be exploited. Instead he emptied himself by assuming the form of a servant, taking on the likeness of humanity. And when he had come as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death — even to death on a cross.

- Read Matthew 20:26-28

  ". . . whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first among you must be your slave; just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

  - Compared to Christ, is there any room for grumbling about serving?

  - What might we have to give up to fully serve?

  - Give an example of a person you know with this servant heart.

    - What kind of impact did they have on you? What kind of impact do you think they have had for the kingdom?

  - Without naming names, can you think of someone you know that served with the opposite attitude? What kind of impact did they have on you and for the kingdom?

- Pastor David said "nothing exposes our weaknesses like serving."

  - Have you discovered weaknesses in yourself while serving?

  - How do you turn that frustration with your weakness into a prayer to God?

When I serve, I see my faith on display

- Read James 2:14-18

  What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can his faith save him? If a brother or sister is without clothes and lacks daily food and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, keep warm, and eat well," but you don't give them what the body needs, what good is it? In the same way faith, if it doesn't have works, is dead by itself. But someone will say, "You have faith, and I have works." Show me your faith without works, and I will show you faith from my works.

  - Why is faith dead without works?

  - Why is talk cheap? Have you experienced someone offering words but no action to back them up or in the opposite manner (again, don't name names)?

- Read Romans 12:2

  Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may discern what is the good, pleasing, and perfect will of God.

  - We all fall short and talk a good game but lack follow-up at some point. How does the Spirit of God give us the power to move beyond those failures and be transformed?

- Read Romans 15:1-2 (The Message)

    Those of us who are strong and able in the faith need to step in and lend a hand to those who falter, and not just do what is most convenient for us. Strength is for service, not status. Each one of us needs to look after the good of the people around us, asking ourselves, "How can I help?"

    - Is that the kind of church you want to be?

Next Steps

- Take a Spiritual Gifts Test at https://gifts.churchgrowth.org/spiritual-gifts-survey/501577/?id=501577!

- Fill out a Team Celebration Application at icelebration.org/volunteer or by clicking here.

- What are your passions? How can you use those passions to serve God?

- Check out the 21-Days of Prayer in the Live Boldly Magazine and pray about the next steps God wants you to take in serving.

SERVE

- Volunteer Staff
- Ministry Intern
- Serve in Church Leadership
- Serve Far *(National/Global Missions)*
- Serve Near *(Local Missions)*
- Serve Weekly at Celebration
- Volunteer at a Special Event
- Join Team Celebration