



SERVE OTHERS

MARKETPLACE MISSION TRIP: WEEK 5

WARM-UP

- Ask one or two people to share the response they prepared for the question, *“Why do you believe in Jesus?”*
- Ask *“What do you do on a regular basis that you wish you could hire someone else to do?”*

PRAYER

Spend 10 minutes in small prayer groups.

- Exchange your *10 Most Wanted* cards
- Spend time praying for co-laborers

LESSON

God uses us to serve others. Jesus came to seek, and to save the lost (Luke 19:10). He announced the kingdom of heaven is at hand (Matthew 4:17, Mark 1:15). He taught us to ask for God's kingdom. But his method was service. *"For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."* (Mark 10:45)

In this passage, Jesus is responding at the end of a discussion that took place a few verses earlier. The disciples were arguing (again) about who would be greatest in Jesus' kingdom. But Jesus stated that we must enter the kingdom like a child and that the top position in the kingdom of God was the position of a servant.

Servant versus King

Jesus prepares a place for us (John 14:2-3), but it won't be our kingdom. When we follow Jesus, He asks us to give up our right to ourselves, which is difficult. We want to keep some of our own kingdom for ourselves. We want to choose what we think, eat, or watch. But God's kingdom doesn't include our kingdom. Jesus laid down his life.

And He said to all, *“If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow Me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will save it.”* (Luke 9:23-24)

Jesus came to serve, and He calls us to serve. When we serve, we make Him visible. The original temptation to Adam and Eve in Genesis 3:5 was to have our eyes opened and be like God, knowing good and evil. We wanted our own kingdom. We didn't want to be in God's kingdom. And every one of us has made the same choice (Romans 3:23).

Get outside your job description

Before we follow Jesus, we work for our own kingdom, and we think everyone else does, too. On the surface, our life

doesn't look different from others. But, when we serve others without building a kingdom of our own, our lives uncover a different reality. Jesus becomes visible.

Our service to others won't be noticeable until it is outside of our job description. That doesn't mean we try and do our boss's job or someone else's job. And it doesn't mean we mind other's business or try to tell them how to do their job.

Four facets

Getting outside of our job description entails these four facets:

1. Do your job very well – so well that those who depend on you are blown away.

2. Do your excellent work early. Work done in advance will matter when someone else needs help. You won't have to tell them you're too busy to help. Go above the normal call of duty early so you can be interrupted and have the time and ability to help.
3. Serve others outside of a work context. Once I coworker home from a hospital stay. Ask God to show you and listen to find needs and then offer humbly to help where possible.
4. Stay humble. Your service is for Christ. We give away our rights because of what He did for us. Avoid doing anything to be noticed. Serve others because Jesus will

know. What we do in secret will be rewarded. (Matthew 6:1)

Remember, others will have little desire to learn about our faith if they don't see grace, peace, generosity, and joy in our lives. But, when we bring humble generosity beyond the normal, the Holy Spirit will use our service and cause others to see (glorify) God (Matthew 5:16). When We live in God's holy joy from being obedient and generous, that's cheerful giving. (2 Corinthians 9:7)

GROUP DISCUSSION

1. Most people will accept help when they're certain you have no ulterior motive. What ideas come to mind

when you think about ways to serve others?

2. Ask God to give you three more ideas and write those here.
3. Make a commitment. What action will you take by when?
4. Will you make room in your monthly budget and schedule to buy lunch or coffee for a coworker?
5. What things can you do to improve your job performance?

DAILY ACTION STEPS

DAY 1

Read Mark 2:1-13

Begin this week praying for others again. How can you serve them? Let God guide you with ideas for how to serve others. Take note of any ideas. Which ones do you commit to completing this week?

DAY 2

Read 2 Corinthians 9:6

Today, as you pray around your workplace or for the people on your calendar, ask God to show you who to serve. Everything you give matters. Get a gift card for a coworker. Or give a \$50 tip for your morning coffee. Do something extreme, trusting God to use it. Make notes about your action.

DAY 3

Read 2 Corinthians 9:7

This is your service week. Who else can you serve? Who did you think of today that you hadn't thought of yet? What else can you do? Record your notes from today's activity.

DAY 4

Read 2 Corinthians 9:8

Remember again to pray for everyone you will meet. Then, take some action. Have you purchased treats for the break room this week? If you're running low on ideas, commit to spending ten extra minutes today listening with the Holy Spirit to the people you interact with. What other ideas do they give you? What other needs do you hear about? Make notes and take action.

DAY 5

Read John 15:1-17

Abide means to live with. Live with Jesus today and let Him direct you. Focus on why you follow Jesus. Ask Him to show you how to demonstrate His peace in your circumstances. Look around. Pray for people. Note who you served and how. What can you do next week, too?

© 2022. *Mike Henry Sr.*

Adapted with permission from Marketplace Mission Trip: A Six-Week Mission Trip to Your Workplace