

You were Shaped for Serving God

“You were put on earth to make a contribution. You weren’t created just to consume resources—to eat, breathe, and take up space. God designed you to make a difference with your life.”
Rick Warren, *The Purpose Driven Life*

“In reply Jesus said: ‘A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he fell into the hands of robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, took him to an inn and took care of him. The next day he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper. ‘Look after him,’ he said, ‘and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.’ ‘Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?’ The expert in the law replied, ‘The one who had mercy on him.’ Jesus told him, ‘Go and do likewise.’” Luke 10:30-37 (NIV)

I. THREE ATTITUDES TOWARDS PEOPLE IN NEED

1. _____
2. _____
3. Treat others how I want _____

II. FOUR STEPS TO SERVING THE NEEDS OF PEOPLE THE WAY JESUS WOULD

1. _____ the needs of people around me.
*“Don’t think only of your own good. Think of other Christians and what is best for them.”
Corinthians 10:24 (NLT)*
2. _____ with people’s pain.
He comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others. When others are troubled, we will be able to give them the same comfort God has given us.” 2 Corinthians 1:4 (NLT)
3. _____ the moment and meet the need.
“Never walk away from someone who deserves help; your hand is God’s hand for that person. Don’t tell your neighbor, ‘Maybe some other time’ or, ‘Try me tomorrow,’ when the money’s right there in your pocket.” Proverbs 3:27,28 (Msg)

4. _____ whatever it takes.

"Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers." Galatians 6:10 (NIV)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

The story of the Good Samaritan is a classic example of true ministry. Let's spend some time discussing this story and its implications for our lives.

1. Why, in your opinion, do many people walk right by opportunities to serve others?
2. To be a servant you must move against your fears. What personal fears keep you from serving others or meeting needs in your church family?
3. With which of these four steps to serving do you most identify?
 - ❖ Seeing the needs around you
 - ❖ Sympathizing with people's pain
 - ❖ Seizing the moment to meet the need
 - ❖ Spending whatever it takes
4. You were challenged in this lesson to get very practical. Take a minute and write down some of your gifts and talents. Briefly share them with the group and have the group respond with possible areas of ministry where your gifts would be effective.

SERVE/SHARE

1. As a group, take a few minutes to discuss a project or ministry you could serve in together to meet a need in your church. Commit to ask your pastor or someone else in leadership about any unmet needs your group could meet.
2. Next week's session is the last in this series, but you are encouraged to take one more week to enjoy a time of celebration. This could be a time of sharing what God has done in your lives through the course of this study. Consider what you would like to do and begin to make plans for that special time together

ADDITIONAL STUDY

Paul gives us additional insight as to how we should respond as a servant.

1. How does Paul tell us we are to imitate Christ's heart and actions as we serve the needs of others in Philippians 2:1-7?

2. Also in chapter 2, Paul gives us insight into the kind of servants Timothy and Epaphroditus were. From Philippians 2:19-30 what can we learn from their example of service to the believers?
3. Why is it often difficult for us to show genuine concern for others and put their interests ahead of our own?

PREPARATION FOR NEXT TIME

1. Continue to follow the Reading Plan.
2. Read Luke 15 to discover God's heart for those outside His family.
3. Read the story of Zacchaeus in Luke 19:1-10. What principles for sharing your faith can you learn from Jesus' encounter with Zacchaeus?
4. Read 2 Corinthians 5:17-21. Why is the word picture of an ambassador (v. 20) such an appropriate image for our mission in the world?