



HOMIES

The Power of Serving

#nphomies

Week 4
4 of 6
May 14, 2017

Bottom Line: Serving is deliberately walking away from selfishness, using my power and resources to meet another's needs—without coercion or manipulation.

Icebreaker: What would you do if you won the lottery or a \$1 million sweepstakes?

Key Verse: *God has created us for a life of good deeds, which he has already prepared for us to do.*
Ephesians 2:10b TEV

You were put on earth to make a contribution. God designed you to make a difference with your life. This is one of God's purposes for your life, and it's called your ministry—or service. Your "good deeds" are your service to the world. Whenever you serve others in any way, you are actually serving God and fulfilling your calling. If I have no love for others, no desire to serve others, and I'm only concerned about my needs, my commitment to Christ is in question. Christ, my leader, was content to be a servant and calls me to be a servant in my relationships as well.

Being a servant requires humility, thinking of myself less, and becoming aware of the needs of the people around me. It involves lowering my expectations of others, refusing to base my happiness on how well my needs are met. It means finding satisfaction in bringing my best to those I serve. It means providing for their needs, and protecting them during the storms and trials of life, providing a safe place for their hearts. Serving means praying for the ones in my care—asking God to do for them what no one else can do. Serving in this way gives them confidence, hope, encouragement, and strength.

Being a servant is not having a title, a position, or a job description. Being a servant is a willing choice or an attitude. It requires a mental shift, a change in the way I think. It means that throughout the course of an ordinary day, when I am given dozens of opportunities to prioritize myself or the needs of others, I willingly choose to joyfully serve the other one first.

THINK IT OVER >>>

Thinking back on the message, what was most valuable to you?

"If I have no love for others, no desire to serve others, and I'm only concerned about my needs, I should question whether Christ is really in my life."

Do you agree or disagree? Why?

People who do not think like servants exempt themselves from responsibility and feel like they deserve special treatment. Sometimes the unspoken rules in our families promote this kind of selfishness. Example: Dad always gets the remote. Mom is allowed to be moody.

What expectations promoted servanthood in your family? What detracted?

What unspoken expectations cause you the most problems in your homie relationships?

LOOK IT OVER >>>

How do shame-based relationships negate servanthood?

How do the stresses of change, rejection, and failure require protection? How does a servant work to protect?

Serving others requires providing a solid example, boundaries, and encouragement. Who does that well for you? Who might say you serve them well in one or more of those areas? Why?

"Far be it from me to sin against the Lord by failing to pray for you" (1 Samuel 12:23). It's a sobering thought, that I am sinning against God when I do not serve my homies by praying for them. How can I do better in this area? What should I pray?

NEXT STEPS

This week, consider taking some next steps together as a group:

- 1) Identify one thing per person that you know your family would really notice and appreciate if you chose to serve in that way. Pray for each other about that.
- 2) What is a service project your group could do for a family or a person in your area? Plan it.

EVALUATION/ACTION

Realizing and reaching your full potential in Christ

Bottom Line: Serving is deliberately walking away from selfishness . . .

Rate yourself from 1 to 10 1 (never), 10 (always)	1	2	3	4		6	7	8	9	10
Why did you give yourself this rating?										
What benefits will you obtain by raising your rating?										
Do you know someone who demonstrates this bottom line well? What do you admire about that person?										
What specific action can you put into practice to raise your rating?										
At the end of this week, reflect - where did you see the bottom line show up in your actions throughout the week?										

PRAYER

List group members and their prayer requests for this week:

DAILY STUDY

Want to dig deeper? Check out **The Daily** this week at newpointe.org/daily:

Day 1: 1 John 3:14

Day 2: Matthew 20:26-28

Day 3: 1 Timothy 5:8

Day 4: Luke 22: 31-32

Day 5: Matthew 5:41

Don't let the conversation stop here. Keep talking it over with others throughout the week.
(Don't forget to bring this paper to your next small group meeting)