



**August 21**  
**Serve**

**Day 1: Read Matthew 28: 18-19** What is serve? It means something a little different to everyone and we are compelled to serve for a variety of reasons. We serve out of necessity; someone has called our attention to “fill a spot.” We serve out of duty. We serve because it makes us feel or look good. Yet Matthew 28: 19 tells us that as we are going throughout life we are to serve. Have you ever considered that God calls us to serve because it is going to help us to know and become more like Jesus? We often think acts of service are only of benefit to the one being served; yet through acts of service our hearts are being formed to become more like Jesus - we move from doing acts of service to **becoming a servant**. We don't have to travel to Africa, Asia or Central America! Again the passage tells us that as we are going through life...at work, the grocery store, in our homes, and in our neighborhood- **serve**. What if on Wednesday nights your family got intentional about serving your neighbors by interacting with them, playing with them, working with them, getting to know them? Pray about it and ask God for direction and courage. Then act.

**Day 2: Read Luke 22: 41-42.** There are some incredible things that we see Jesus doing as He engages in an intentional lifestyle of a servant. (Literally giving up His own life) Jesus often withdrew to connect with the Father. Yet we find in this passage that Jesus was struggling in this moment. We face a daily battle of wanting to fulfill our own desires verses yielding our wills and doing the will of our Heavenly Father. When was the last time you took the time to really examine what you want compared to what God actually wants? Do you pray as Jesus did...“Yet not my will, but yours be done?” Whose will are you serving? Are you serving out of obligation or out of adoration? Spend some time journaling these questions; then worship the Father and stand in awe of Him.

**Day 3: Read Luke 10: 25-37.** Jesus shows us that serving is “loving God and loving our neighbor”. In this story we see that serving (loving) is more important than “sacrifice” or “rules”. The Pharisee, trying to obey the rules,

did not love or serve; he missed the point. Jesus teaches us that loving is serving. Read the story again, pay attention to the attitude you see in the Samaritan. Think about the attitude of Jesus - throughout the gospels what does scripture reveal about His attitude toward people? The attitude of a servant is a simple one, yet profound; My purpose is to serve others. From this attitude I discover ways to do that...“How can I make things better for others?” “What is the need?” “In what way can I love and serve this person?” Jesus never drew parameters around how or who to love and serve. Pray for the heart and attitude of a servant. Journal your thoughts about what it looks like to be a servant in your home, your job, your school, your community.

**Day 4: Read the passage from day 3 again.** Think about what it took for the Samaritan to serve the man. He had to be aware enough of his surroundings to **see** him. Do you see the people you encounter throughout your day? Or are you focused on “the next task”? Have you allowed a rhythm in your day that allows you to look at the people you encounter? Do you **see** them? Serving may begin by simply putting down your phone and communicating with the person in front of you. Spend today focusing on seeing people. Look at the person taking your order, scanning your groceries, sitting next to you in class. What do you see? Pray that God would open your eyes to see them as He sees them. Say something kind to them. Jesus is actually inviting each and every one of us to live beyond ourselves and to become servants; to become like Him.

**Day 5: Read Matthew 20:26-28.** Serving isn't something we do, it is who we become. How is filling a spot different from becoming a servant? As we look at the life of Jesus we see a man that was intentionally engaged in a lifestyle of service; it was who He was. How are you serving? Is your service a lifestyle or event driven? Are there opportunities that you are missing because you have always looked at service as filling a spot rather than stepping into a lifestyle, moving from serving to becoming a servant? Ask God to show you how and what a lifestyle of serve looks like? Is there something or somewhere specifically that God is calling you to serve and make things better?