

# LIVE LIKE JESUS

## SERVE OTHERS

Putting others first and using my time, talent, and treasure to help and serve others.  
Investing in the development of other disciples.

- Welcome, Overview
- Message
- Group Study
- Practice the Practice
- Closing Prayer

This Week's Key Verse to Think About, Soak in, and Memorize:

*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***

More Resources to Explore!

See the Spiritual Growth Section of the Twin Cities Church website:

[www.twincities.church/spiritual-growth-live3](http://www.twincities.church/spiritual-growth-live3)

Click on the “Serve Others” picture to find many helpful resources.

## SERVE OTHERS

Following Jesus isn't just about believing in Him—it's about living like Him. And Jesus made it clear: *"I didn't come to be served, but to serve."* His life wasn't centered on personal comfort, success, or ambition—it was centered on loving God and loving people. When we serve with humility and compassion, we show the heart of Jesus to the world, bless those around us, and bring glory to God.

Serving isn't always convenient or easy. Sometimes it costs us time, energy, or comfort. But it's one of the most powerful ways to put the gospel into action. In serving, we grow spiritually, build stronger relationships, and discover a joy that can't be found by living for ourselves. In a culture that constantly tells us to put ourselves first, choosing to serve is a radical—and beautiful—way to follow in Jesus' footsteps.

This matters more than we often realize. Jesus Himself said, *"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). His whole ministry was marked by humility, compassion, and sacrificial love. When we serve, we're walking the same path He walked. We're also fulfilling the greatest commandment—to love God and love our neighbor (Matthew 22:37–39).

And here's the surprising thing: joy isn't found in focusing on ourselves—it's found in giving ourselves away. Serving leads to purpose, meaning, and the deep satisfaction of knowing we're making a difference. In everyday moments of kindness and care, we become the hands and feet of Jesus—living reminders of His grace in a world that desperately needs it.

### What the Bible Says About Serving Others

The Bible is filled with calls to serve and bless others:

- **Galatians 5:13:** *"You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love."*

This shows that the freedom we receive in Jesus should lead to a life of service motivated by love.

- **Matthew 20:26-28:** *"...whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first 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."*

Jesus calls us to follow His way of loving and serving others and living a selfless life.

- **1 Peter 4:10-11:** *"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ."*

This calls us to use our unique gifts to serve others with God's strength.

## The Example of Lydia: A Heart Open to Serve God and Others

In Acts 16, we are introduced to Lydia, a successful businesswoman who was a seller of purple cloth in the city of Philippi. Lydia was a woman of faith who was already a worshiper of God when Paul came to share the gospel with her. Upon hearing the message of Jesus, Lydia's heart was opened, and she and her household responded.

**Acts 16:11-15, 40:** *On the Sabbath we went outside the city gate to the river, where we expected to find a place of prayer. We sat down and began to speak to the women who had gathered there. One of those listening was a woman from the city of Thyatira named Lydia, a dealer in purple cloth. She was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to respond to Paul's message. When she and the members of her household were baptized, she invited us to her home. "If you consider me a believer in the Lord," she said, "come and stay at my house." And she urged us so strongly that we had to go...*

*After Paul and Silas came out of the prison, they went to Lydia's house, where they met with the brothers and sisters and encouraged them. Then they left the city.*

Lydia's response to her newfound faith was to immediately serve. She opened her home to Paul and his companions, offering hospitality and support for their ministry. Later, even after Paul and Silas were released from prison, Lydia's home served as a gathering place for the early church. In fact, this church is mentioned later in the book of Revelation. Lydia's service and leadership helped develop this important ministry that served this entire region.

Lydia used her resources—her home, wealth, and influence—to serve others and advance God's kingdom. She didn't view her success as something to protect for personal gain, but as a gift to be shared generously. Her story reminds us that a transformed heart naturally overflows in loving service to others.

Like Lydia, we each have something to offer—whether it's our time, talents, finances, or connections. In a world that often encourages us to use these things for our own comfort, Lydia's example challenges us to live differently: to live generously, purposefully, and outwardly.

Imagine living each day with a heart aligned with Jesus, actively looking for ways to meet the needs of others. Picture yourself using what God has entrusted to you to bring hope, encouragement, and love to those around you. This is the kind of life Lydia lived—and the kind of life Jesus calls you to.

Together we are going to explore the practice **Serve Others**. As we do, ask God to open your eyes to the needs around you, and to show you how you can serve with what you've been given. A life of Christlike service starts with a willing heart—and it leads to a deeper joy, a greater purpose, and a lasting impact.

## **GROUP STUDY: Serve Others**

### **Begin with Prayer and Silence**

As a group say a quick prayer to invite the Holy Spirit to guide your time together. Then spend a moment in silence, expressing a desire to hear from God.

### **Explore the Scriptures**

1. Let's read Romans 12:6–8. Lydia used her home and resources to serve the early church. What has God uniquely entrusted to you—whether time, finances, skills, or relationships—that could be used to bless others? How might God be prompting you to step out and use those gifts?
2. We are most like Jesus when we love and serve others well. Let's read John 13:14–15. Jesus modeled radical humility by serving His disciples. How does this kind of sacrificial love challenge your understanding of leadership or influence? What opportunities do you have to “wash feet” in your daily life?
3. Sometimes we can get intimidated by service and think we need to do something big to make a difference. Let's read Hebrews 13:16. Serving can be as simple as encouragement, a meal, or an act of kindness. Who is God bringing to mind right now that you can serve? What small, intentional step could you take to bless them?

### **Read the Practice Together**

Read through the practice on the next page together, and then answer these questions:

- Do you feel you understand the practice? Do you have any questions about it?
- How do you feel about practicing this, any concerns?

### **Share Your Personal Action Plan with the Group**

I will practice this on (day and time) \_\_\_\_\_

in this place (location) \_\_\_\_\_

### **Close in Prayer**

## PRACTICE: Serve Others

When it comes to serving, the Bible gives us many examples—some done with genuine love, and others done with the wrong motivations. It's possible to be busy *doing* good while still serving our own image, comfort, or pride. This is why it's so important to examine our hearts as we serve, asking two key questions:

“How do I view others?”

“How do I view what God has entrusted to me?”

First, we must learn to see others through the eyes of Jesus—with compassion, dignity, and empathy. Serving means stepping into someone else's experience, listening deeply, and responding with genuine care. This allows us to move beyond surface-level charity and into Christlike compassion. It's not about fixing people—it's about honoring their worth and meeting them where they are, just like Jesus did. Here are some tips:

- **Listen Actively:** When someone shares their struggles or needs with you, practice active listening. Pay attention, ask thoughtful questions, and show understanding.
- **Imagine Their Perspective:** Try to put yourself in the other person's shoes. How might they feel? What do they need? What can you do to help them in this moment?
- **Respond with Compassion:** After understanding their needs, act with compassion. Whether it's offering your time, providing emotional support, or helping in a practical way, respond like Jesus would.

Second, we must understand that everything we have—our time, talents, and treasures—are not ultimately ours. They are God's gifts, entrusted to us not to hoard, but to steward for the sake of others. Like Lydia in Acts 16, who used her home and wealth to support the early church, we are called to live open-handedly. We serve not from ownership, but from stewardship.

### Stewarding with Purpose:

- **Time:** Are we using our schedules to bless others, or are we too busy? Stewardship starts with margin—choosing to make time to serve, visit, listen, or volunteer in meaningful ways. How can you use your time to serve others? What do you need to give up to do this?
- **Talent:** God has gifted each of us uniquely. Whether it's leadership, hospitality, music, mentoring, or organizing—our talents were never meant to elevate ourselves, but to build others up. What gifts and talents do you have? How might you use those to serve others?
- **Treasure:** Generosity is a spiritual discipline that reflects God's heart. When we give financially to meet needs or support ministry, we reflect the generosity of Jesus, who gave everything for us. What is a next step for you when it comes to generous giving?

When we serve with both empathy *and* stewardship, we reflect the character of Jesus. Our service becomes less about checking a box, and more about living a life shaped by love. It's a powerful way to demonstrate the gospel—not just in words, but in action.