



MONTHLY PRACTICE: SERVING

OVERVIEW

For you have been called to live in freedom, my brothers and sisters. But don't use your freedom to satisfy your sinful nature. Instead, use your freedom to serve one another in love.

Galatians 5:13

*When we serve, we connect ourselves to Jesus' heart
and point others to Jesus' love.*

Jesus modeled servant leadership better than anyone who has walked the planet—and then challenged us to live the same way. When we serve, we are reminded that our issues are not the only issues, and that the world is bigger than our problems. We find joy in helping others overcome their struggles. We serve because through serving, we find life, and we help others find life.

[Overview Video](https://youtu.be/SMnIO5Z_5A0)

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WEEKLY GUIDES

WEEK 1

PRE-MEETING PREPARATION

- Make sure you have access to the overview video and are able to play that for the group.
- Review the Discussion Highlights for your reference.
 - *These are intended to give you context for the week. You can choose to start with these and use them for discussion, or just bring them up as applicable during your Group practice time.*
- Read through the Group and Individual Practices.

Discussion Highlights: **Finding Fulfillment**

- The callings and gifts God gives you are not only for you, but for others.
- The highest levels of contentment, satisfaction and fulfillment are found in being part of something bigger than yourself.
- Following Jesus by serving others strengthens our relationship with him.

Connection Time - 20 Minutes

Sermon Review - 20 Minutes

(Guides are updated weekly on the [Community webpage](#).)

Group Application - 40 Minutes

- **Group practice - do this together in Group**
 - Watch the overview video together, then engage in discussion.
 - **REVIEW** the Discussion Highlights for this week.
 - **ASK:** Are you fulfilled by your current way of life? Why or why not?
 - **ASK:** How are you using your gifts and influence to serve others?
 - **REVIEW** the memory verse and other resources for the month.
- **Individual practice - to do on your own throughout the week**
 - Do something purely for someone else's benefit that you wouldn't normally do. Write down some thoughts about your experience—what was satisfying, what was challenging, how did your expectations match up to reality?

Pray - 10 Minutes

WEEK 2

PRE-MEETING PREPARATION

- Review the highlights for leader's reference.
- Read through the Group and Individual Practices.

Discussion Highlights for reference: **Demonstrating Love**

- We show the validity of our faith by caring for those around us.
- When we follow Jesus, he produces his compassion in our hearts.
- Serving practical needs often presents opportunities to meet spiritual needs.

Connection Time - 20 Minutes

Sermon Review - 20 Minutes

(Guides are updated weekly on the [Community webpage](#).)

Group Application - 40 Minutes

- **Group practice - do this together in Group**
 - **REVIEW** the previous week's individual practice.
 - **REVIEW** the Discussion Highlights for this week.
 - Plan how you can serve together as a group in the next few weeks, whether through a Serve First Saturday project or something else.
 - **ASK:** How would you define compassion?
 - **ASK:** Do you feel that your compassion for people is growing over time? Why or why not?
 - **ASK:** How have you been impacted by someone else serving you?
 - **REVIEW** the memory verse and other resources for the month.
- **Individual practice - to do on your own throughout the week**
 - Write a card or give a gift to someone you wouldn't normally do that for. Be prayerful throughout the process, asking the Holy Spirit to guide you.

Pray - 10 Minutes

WEEK 3

PRE-MEETING PREPARATION

- Review the highlights for leader's reference.
- Read through the Group and Individual Practices.

Discussion Highlights for reference: **Glorifying God**

- We serve because it reveals and honors the nature of Jesus.
- The way we relate to other people is directly related to the way we relate to Jesus.
- It is through sacrifice, servanthood and humility that we glorify God.

Connection Time - 20 Minutes

Sermon Review - 20 Minutes

(Guides are updated weekly on the [Community webpage](#).)

Group Application - 40 Minutes

- **Group practice - do this together in Group**
 - **REVIEW** the previous week's individual practice.
 - **REVIEW** the Discussion Highlights for this week.
 - **ASK:** How often do you intentionally connect with God throughout your day?
 - **ASK:** What have you learned about God through serving others?
 - Watch [this testimony video](#) from Core: Resources. Discuss what stood out to you most, and what next step you hope to take.
 - <https://www.definition.church/item/closing-3>
 - **REVIEW** the memory verse and other resources for the month.
- **Individual practice - to do on your own throughout the week**
 - Pray the following prayer each morning this week, and keep record of any impact you sense or experience throughout the week:

Father, my life belongs to you. Everything I will do today is only possible because you have given me this life. I present my body, my mind, my energy and my time to you. Above all else, may my life bring you glory today.

Pray - 10 Minutes

WEEK 4

PRE-MEETING PREPARATION

- Decide in advance what you will do this week for the Group Practice. This can be anything that builds community and relationship. If your group missed a week, you can also use this week to make up for previous content.

Connection time - 20 Minutes

Sermon review - 20 Minutes

(Guide will be sent out to leaders each week in February.)

Group time - 40 Minutes

- **REVIEW** the previous week's individual practice.
- In addition to the usual connection time and sermon review, use this week's meeting to foster community and deepen relationships.
- **REVIEW** the memory verse and other resources for the month.

Pray - 10 Minutes

MONTHLY PRACTICE SUMMARY

Serving other people intentionally helps us find fulfillment, demonstrate love, and glorify God!

CORPORATE CHALLENGE

Be involved in a Definition serving opportunity at least once this month, either through your group or on your own.

RESOURCES

MEMORY VERSE

If you cling to your life, you will lose it; but if you give up your life for me, you will find it.

Matthew 10:39

BOOKS

- [Serve Your City](#). Dino Rizzo.

DEFINITION SERMONS

- ["Purpose Leads to Contentment"](#)
- ["Taking It to the Streets"](#)
- ["Love First"](#)