

Scared to Serve?



lisa severson

Does the word “service” scare you a bit? Maybe it strikes fear in your heart that someone (maybe even God) will ask you to do something you have no desire to do. Do you immediately sort through all the items left undone on your “to-do” list and determine that you just wouldn’t be able to fit in more?

the picture of service

That’s not the picture God gives us of service. Sure, there will always be necessary tasks and experiences in life that are less than exciting, sometimes even very difficult. But, every time, God provides what is needed to rise above the challenges. At the same time, example after example in his Word goes beyond the idea of just gritting one’s teeth and bearing the task. He uses phrases like, “with all your heart and all your soul” and “eager to serve.” If you grasp the idea that Christ, “the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve,” you begin to get the picture that there is actually something quite powerful and beautiful about the act of serving others.

the effects of service

Look around and you’ll see the powerful effects of serving. The Body of Christ is built up. People are encouraged. The world sees the love of Christ in tangible ways. Kingdom work gets done. And, we are able to see God at work in us. He uses each opportunity to transform and teach us while his power is all the more reflected in our weaknesses.

the impact of service

Don’t miss the opportunity to see God work in and through you. Ask him where and how he wants you to serve the Body of Christ. Pray for his power to be shown as you do. Then keep your eyes and heart open. You may even be led to invite others to serve alongside you. You never know what the impact may be!

Study the following verses in context, asking God to teach you and reveal opportunities for you to serve. For a list of specific possibilities in New Hope Church ministry, visit: newhopechurchmn.org/connect/serviceopps.php.

“For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” –Mark 10:45 ESV

“For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.” –Galatians 5:13 ESV

“Only be very careful to observe the commandment and the law that Moses the servant of the Lord commanded you, to love the Lord your God, and to walk in all his ways and to keep his commandments and to cling to him and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul.” –Joshua 22:5 ESV

“To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.” –1 Corinthians 12:7 ESV