



LEARNING TO SERVE

a Life Transformation course

Del Wells

INCLUDES STUDY GUIDE
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Learning to Serve

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Introduction

Welcome to *Learning to Serve*. To this point you have begun to develop the basics of your Christian life learned in the *First Steps* course. You have also discovered how the Holy Spirit lives in you to help you experience life to the full outlined in the *Life in the Spirit* course. You are now going to examine what you have been created in Christ to do to make a positive difference in your world.

Transformed living requires dramatic change in the way you view your relationship to others. Following the example of Jesus and his teachings, you learn to live not to be served, but to serve others. A believer who is not serving will not feel complete or fulfilled. It is necessary to give out what you receive from the Lord to make room to take more in to keep you refreshed and ready for service.

Through *Learning to Serve* you will develop a practical understanding of true ministry which includes serving the church body and the world. You will be introduced to the concepts of servanthood, stewardship, and being gifted and equipped to minister effectively.

How far do you want to go in your spiritual growth and development? I pray that the desire of your heart is to be transformed daily by God to be all that he knows you can be and to do all that he has planned for you to do. May this course help shape your philosophy of ministry for Christ by learning to serve as Jesus did and would if he were in your place.

Again, welcome to Learning to Serve.

Del Wells

Lesson 1: Learning About Serving

The Big Deal!

Jesus teaches you about serving.

Luke 17:7-10

The concept of serving is unfamiliar to most of us. To see yourself as a servant is difficult if you have never been one. The strong message of the world you live in is that you should be served to gain significance for yourself. The implication is that the server is less valuable than the one being served. Even as a Christian, you will be tempted many times to focus primarily on your personal privileges of being a child of the Father of all creation. While there are innumerable blessings for you in Christ, you will miss experiencing the fullness of the transformed life until you live as a servant of Jesus. As a citizen of God's eternal kingdom, you must learn to daily serve the King, Jesus Christ, by serving others.

Servant in our Scripture passage is a word translated from the Greek language that means to serve as a slave, subjecting yourself to the will of another. For you as a Christian, this means submitting yourself to the Lordship of Christ. When Jesus arrived on the world scene, he set a new pattern for living that ran contrary to the value system of personhood in that day, just as it would for us today. Jesus said that he came to serve, not to be served. Further, he taught that true greatness of a citizen in his kingdom came from serving others. In essence, a servant is not to consider themselves first, but is required to do their master's will as the highest priority in every situation.

1. What are your thoughts about what it means for you to be a servant of Jesus?

Another term Jesus uses to describe servants in our passage is *unworthy*. This word means to be totally undeserving of whatever one has received.

2. Why is it important to see yourself as undeserving of God's grace to be an effective servant of Jesus?
3. What value does it give you being Christ's servant knowing that Jesus has chosen you for this special purpose?

A third word that stands out in our passage is *duty*, which means the obligation that arises from one's position. The servant saw what he did for his master as being very normal to the extent that he did not even expect thanks or recognition for doing the job.

4. How does accepting the obligation to Christ as his servant help you view your long-term commitment to serving?

5. Why would you willingly accept the position of being a servant of Jesus Christ? (Philippians 2:5-8)

6. How can you take on Jesus' attitude of a servant? (Romans 12:1)

Before you committed yourself to Christ, you lived to serve yourself – you were your own master. Now that you have become a believer, you have a new master, Jesus Christ. You are now positioned to live out the eternal purpose for which you have been created. You are now able to see things from God's perspective. Life transformation renews your mind and changes your thinking to be more like Jesus by following his example.

Ministry is Serving - 1 Peter 4:7-11

As a Christian, you are a minister of Jesus Christ. The simple definition of ministry is serving others for Christ. It is God's way of touching and ministering to people through you: "...serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms". (v.10).

True ministry is serving for the cause of Christ rather than attempting to fulfill personal needs and ambitions. When you serve in any capacity, you learn a lot about yourself. You discover why you do what you do, whether it is for the sake of others and God or for yourself. Ministry can easily become a performance where you are most concerned about how good you look and what others think or say about you. However, pure ministry is unselfish serving, not performance. Learn to serve out of love for the Lord and others rather than for personal gain.

While serving does not get publicly noticed or acknowledged often, it is the true picture of God's grace in action. People's lives are personally touched by the presence of God by those who have learned to serve graciously. God has chosen you to be a vehicle for Him to express his love through to others which is a privilege and honour.

Guiding Principles for Serving in Ministry

7. Why is it important to start serving others sooner rather than later? (4:7a)

8. What is essential to being able to serve others effectively? (4:8)

9. What is a practical way to serve and with what attitude should this be done? (4:9)

10. Why has God given you gifts to use? (4:10)

11. How will you be able to serve even at times when you do not feel like it? (4:11a)

12. What is the result when you faithfully serve in ministry? (4:11b)

You will experience great fulfillment when you bring glory to God in every situation. He has given you a very practical way to honour him by serving others. As a faithful servant, you feel complete because you are accomplishing your God-given purpose for existing.

Everything you do is because of Christ in you. You are a changed person who is being transformed daily to be more like Jesus. When you serve others, Jesus is seen in you and God is praised. Your unselfish ministry through serving draws attention to Christ himself and, when Jesus is exalted, people will be drawn to Him.

Your Response

- Take some time to think about the blessing that God has given you to be able to serve Christ. Thank Him.
- Remember that Jesus is on a mission to reach and transform people with the gospel just like you have been. Thank the Lord that he has included you in his eternal plan and ask him to help you to develop an attitude like his so that others see Jesus in you as you serve.
- Think of some opportunities that have been made available for you to serve. Ask the Holy Spirit to fill you with his presence and confirm what you should do and when.
- Ask the Lord to give you the strength and grace you need to touch people's lives with his presence in every situation.

Lesson 2: Managing God's Trust in You

The Big Deal!

God trusts you to be a good manager.

Matthew 25:14-30

Stewardship is another concept that is uncommon for most people today but is important to learn to serve as a Christ follower. A steward is a manager, someone who looks after business affairs for someone else. The steward is not the owner but looks after the owner's things. A good manager gives quality care to everything entrusted to them.

As a servant of Jesus, you have become a steward for Him. This means that nothing you have belongs to you, but to the Lord who has given it to you to use. You are simply managing what God has entrusted to you. What you have received is yours to use, invest wisely, and look after. One day however, everything you have will be returned to its rightful owner. On that day, one question will be asked of you as a steward: "Have you been faithful with what you have been given to manage for God?"

1. What is your responsibility for the trust that God has given you? (1 Corinthians 4:2)

The greatest thing the owner gives to his steward is his trust. The owner trusts the steward to faithfully look after his affairs. You have been made a trustee by God over many things including time, talents, resources, money, relationships, and vocation. How you handle these things reflects who you believe really owns them.

Your possession of all that you have is only temporary. One day everything will go back to its rightful owner, Jesus Christ. Until then, he is pleased to let you use what he has given you. Successful stewardship requires you to name Jesus as Lord of everything in your life. When Jesus is Lord, you will plan to bring increase to Jesus on his investments, even while enjoying the benefits of using them until they are returned to Christ in the future.

In Matthew 25, you learn the importance of managing God's trust in you.

2. How is stewardship pictured in this story? (v.14)

All three men recognized who the master was and who the servants were. Jesus, like the man, has gone on a journey to heaven where he waits to return to earth at any time. Even while Jesus is gone, he still owns all he has left in the servants' care.

3. What did the master give to each of his servants and why? (v.15)

The amounts of trust given varied according to the decision of the master because of his wisdom and knowledge of the servants. He knew which one could handle five bags of gold, which one two, and which one could handle one. At no time did the master ask the servants to try to outdo one another or compare themselves to each other. The important thing was that the master gave all the servants a trust. What they received was not their own, but the master trusted them to look after his wealth while he was away.

As a believer, God trusts you with what he believes you can handle according to your abilities. This parable talks about bags of gold which were used in Bible times the way we use money. Without question, money is a major area of struggle for most people regarding its ownership. Jesus taught that money is seductive and wants to be your master. However, it is impossible to serve both God and money (Matthew 6:24). Money can hold a mystical power over you and Jesus knows that. We like to make money, spend money, save money, and dream about money. We have the most trouble with giving money, especially offering it back to its owner when he needs it for His purposes.

The broader application of bags of gold is that they symbolize everything the Lord has entrusted to your care. You are to manage with excellence the wealth of resources you are blessed with – time, job, family, friends, and social position. Do you recognize all that God has given to you as a trust? Are you deeply thankful for it?

4. How do you know that the three servants understood they were being held accountable for how they handled the trust of the master? (vs.16-18)

5. What made the five and two bags of gold servants successful?

6. What made the one bag of gold servant unsuccessful?

Notice that the servants were not commended or condemned based on the amount of their gold. The measuring stick the master used was *faithfulness* – how faithful the servants were with the wealth the master gave them to use and invest wisely.

The same principle applies to you as a Chris follower today. Jesus measures your success or failure as his steward according to your faithfulness to use it and bring increase to him on the final accounting day.

7. To be a successful steward for Christ, give an example of how you should you manage the following provisions from him:
 - Your skills
 - Your time
 - Your money
 - Your family
 - Your job

8. How did the master respond to the good and faithful stewards? (vs.19-23)

9. How did the master respond to the unfaithful steward? (vs.24-30)

The good steward is motivated to give a profitable accounting to Christ at any moment that he may return. What increase in his trust in you would you be able to give back to Jesus should He return today?

Your Response

- Take time to consider and pray about “Three Commitments of the Good Steward”:
 - I commit to being faithful to Jesus Christ with my talents. (Name them)
 - I commit to not being lazy and making excuses for unfaithfulness. (Check for buried talents)
 - I commit to hearing the words “Well done, good and faithful servant.” (How wisely are you investing your talents?)

Make it a habit to continually affirm these three commitments to Christ. Follow the through, not just for your own sake, but for the building and expanding of the kingdom of God through your faithful stewardship.

Lesson 3: Body Ministry

The Big Deal!

You are a part of Christ's body.

1 Corinthians 12:12-31

The first four books of the New Testament, the Gospels, tell the story of Jesus coming from heaven to earth and ministering with compassion to people everywhere he went. After his crucifixion, resurrection, and ascension back to heaven, Jesus set in motion a continuation of his earthly ministry. The church, made up of his followers, has been commissioned to carry out this global task. Every believer has been appointed to be Jesus' personal representative.

"Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it." (12:27)

Our physical bodies are object lessons to help us understand the body of Christ - what it is, what it does, and how you fit into it. The church is spiritual in essence but operates through flesh and blood people for the cause of Christ. The church belongs to no man but to Christ himself. We become part of Christ's body by placing our faith in him.

1. Why is it important to remember that the church belongs to Christ?

The body is where God produces togetherness for Christian believers through partnership in life encounters and serving. It is also where spiritual and physical health and wholeness can be experienced through prayer, the study of God's Word, life in the Spirit, and community-building. In an environment of cooperation and openness, new possibilities to grow in faith are created for active members. Engaging in body life prepares you to encounter challenging situations with confidence and minister with compassion to people in need.

Body life is the result of believers sharing their lives with one another for the sake of the whole church. This is where unselfishness can be practiced and developed. Body life requires honesty and vulnerability from its members in to become authentic representatives of Jesus that positively influence and impact those outside the church.

2. What is the potential to impact your community as a healthy church body?

Benefits of Body Life

A. A Body to Belong To (1 Corinthians 12: 12, 13)

Christ only has one body, not many bodies (12:12; Romans 12:5). This is like your physical body that is one unit but has many different and unique parts. However, all the parts still belong to your body.

Everyone who is in Christ by faith is part of one spiritual body. The body does not belong to any one of the members, but to Christ himself. Jesus has rightfully assumed this position of authority over the body at great personal expense, his sacrificial death on the cross.

The body of Christ is to be a place of love, acceptance, and forgiveness for all who believe in Jesus. Regardless of your age, the sins of your past, or your feelings of inadequacy, every follower of Christ is loved, accepted, and forgiven by him. This makes the body of Christ an inviting place to belong.

3. How does the body of Christ fill your need to belong to something significant?

B. A Body to Connect With (1 Corinthians 12: 14-20)

The body is a combination of parts, not one part by itself. The individual parts of the body cannot survive on their own but must be connected to the others (12:15, 16). No part of the body, whether spiritual or physical, can declare independence from the body and exist.

God determines what body part you are. You do not get to choose your position within the body. There may be times you would prefer to be another body part for any number of reasons. Remind yourself that the arrangement of the body parts is God's idea and as the master planner of all things, he knows exactly what he is doing (12:18).

4. What is the advantage of God arranging the body and not you or someone else?

Every body part has a unique function. It is important for you to stay joined to the body for the welfare of everyone. In doing so, you can experience close connection with others.

5. How does your connectedness help you develop your maturity and serving abilities?

C. A Body to Care For (1 Corinthians 12: 21-26)

Each part of the body needs all the other parts to be healthy and growing. No part is indispensable, whether it is seen or mostly unseen (12:21-24a). You will notice that in your own physical body, the vital organs are those that are unseen and yet are considered very important. Likewise, your visibility in the body of Christ is not what determines your value to the church. Because all the members of the body are valuable, equal concern for each member is promoted. The condition of any member of the body impacts the whole body. Care is therefore necessary for every individual part so that the whole body can be fully healthy. Every body part, whether seen or unseen, must be looked after.

6. Who is responsible to care for the needs of the members of the church body?

It is unproductive and ineffective to designate the care of the body members to a few people. For maximum health, body care is the responsibility and privilege of every member. For any member to receive support and encouragement, they must stay accountable to the body to mature and grow the way they should (Hebrews 10: 24, 25). The more you miss meeting with the other members the more you will feel disconnected and uncared for. You will also miss opportunities to contribute to body health and growth which increase your sense of joy and fulfillment through serving.

7. Why do church members often resist being accountable to the body?

D. A Body to Serve From (1 Corinthians 12: 27-31)

God has designed the body for believers to serve others according to his will. As body members, we help one another discover and use the gifts God has given us to serve with. In these Scriptures you are introduced to a representative list of gift groups that God has designed to accomplish care for his body and ministry to the world. "And God has placed in the church..." (12:28). These gifts are organized by God for his kingdom purposes.

a) Equipping Gifts (These gifts are examined in Lesson 6)

"...first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers..."

This representative list corresponds to Ephesians 4:11-13 which expands the spiritual equippers to include apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers.

The primary function of the equipping gifts is to prepare body members for ministry (works of service) and facilitate spiritual growth and unity within the body.

8. As an equipper, what do you think your pastor's time should be spent doing?

b) Manifestation Gifts (These gifts are examined in *Life in the Spirit* Lessons 7 & 8)

"...then miracles, then gifts of healing...and of different kinds of tongues."

This representative list corresponds to 1 Corinthians 12:7-11 which includes a message of wisdom, a message of knowledge, faith, gifts of healing, miraculous powers, prophecy, distinguishing between spirits, speaking in different kinds of tongues, and the interpretation of tongues.

These manifestations are special gifts God gives beyond your own abilities as they are needed, to help you accomplish your mission supernaturally.

9. Name some ways that manifestation gifts can assist you in serving God and others.

c) Ministry Gifts (These gifts are examined in Lessons 4 & 5)

"...helping...guidance."

This list corresponds to Romans 12:6-8 which includes prophesying, serving, teaching, encouraging, giving, leading, and showing mercy.

The ministry gifts are the spiritual means for your kingdom service. They describe your supernaturally designed function to make the best impact as part of the body ministry.

10. Which of these ministry gifts do you think is the most important?

God has provided your church body with the necessary gifts to do what he has called you to do. The *greater gifts* (1 Corinthians 12:31) are not gifts of superior value than others, but are the gifts needed to bring maturity and wholeness to the body at any given time.

All the gifts are vital to maximize body life. The overall goal must be to have every member of your body recognize their gift and designated place in the body and be equipped and released to experience effective and productive kingdom service. The well-being of the entire church body is affected by your participation or lack of it.

Your Response

Picture your church as the body of Christ:

- Thank God that he has made you a part of it.
- Think about all the different people that are members of the body. Name some of them and thank God for including them in it.
- Ask God to show you how you can contribute more effectively to the health of the body.
- Ask God to prepare you to serve with a greater understanding of the gifts he has made available to you to function effectively as examined in Lessons 3, 4 & 5.

Lesson 4: Ministry Gifts – You Have One

The Big Deal!

The body has been gifted by God to serve.

Romans 12:3-8

In the previous lesson, you learned that all believers are part of a spiritual body, called the body of Christ. Just as your physical body is made up of many different parts, so is the body of Christ, and you are one of its parts. Just like no two members of your human body are identical, so every segment of the church body is somewhat different. Every part of your own body has a function to perform, and you are healthy when they all operate properly. Likewise, in the body of Christ, every member has a responsibility to be healthy and to function to their full potential for the entire body to experience wholeness. We look again at Romans 12 to see the connection between you belonging to the body and having a gift for serving others with eternal purpose.

1. What should your attitude be regarding your position and service in the body of Christ? (12:3)

2. What is the relationship between you and the other members of the body? (12:4, 5)

3. Why do you think that no one person has all the gifts for serving but they are spread throughout the whole body? (12:6-8)

4. Consider the list of the seven *ministry gifts* and think of an example of how each gift could be used to serve in practical ways (12:6-8):
 - a) The Messenger – “Prophesying...in accordance with your faith”
 - Declaring the purposes and will of God to both believers and unbelievers.

 - b) The Server – “Serving”
 - Helping to accomplish the mission of God in any way needed.

 - c) The Teacher – “Teaching”
 - Bringing understanding of the word of God to others.

 - d) The Encourager – “Encouraging”
 - Building people up by means of words and presence.

e) The Giver – “Giving...generously”

- Giving substantially of personal resources to further God’s work.

f) The Leader – “Lead...diligently”

- Influencing others to reach their full potential in Christ.

g) The Comforter – “Show mercy...cheerfully”

- Offering compassion to the suffering.

It is important to remember that ministry gifts are given by God, not earned by anyone. Every believer has been spiritually gifted, and no one has been excluded. The church body has the necessary gifts available to be healthy and effective if used by everyone. Personal and church growth is hindered when even one person fails to recognize and use their gift.

Frustration occurs for a person who is involved in ministry but does not understand their gift. Ministry matched with giftedness has the potential for the greatest results. Once gifts are discovered, they are to be developed through continual use. Regular exercise is beneficial, not just for physical body conditioning, but also for ongoing spiritual development.

No one person has all the gifts, although it is possible to have more than one. However, one gift will usually be dominant with the others being supportive. The attitude for using your gift is to be one of worship (Romans 12:1,2). The motivation for using your gift is to be love for God and others (Romans 12:9-21).

Always value the gifts God has given to you and be willing and ready to use them to further his kingdom. You have an important role to play in the body of Christ and are required to do your best. You must learn to work together with the members of the body to continue Jesus’ work on earth. Take encouragement that you are not serving alone but are part of a team involved in an eternal mission of life transformation.

Your Response

The purpose of the ministry gifts is serving others (1 Peter 4:10). Take some time now to thank God for the following things:

- Through faith in Jesus you have become a part of Christ’s body.
- You are a unique part of the body with a special part to play.
- God has given you a gift to use to serve others.
- By identifying your gift and putting it to use, you help the body to be healthy and impact the world for Christ.

Study the list of ministry gifts again to prepare for a closer look at them in the next lesson.

Lesson 5: Ministry Gifts – A Closer Look to Find Yours

The Big Deal!

You can identify your gift and put it to good use.

Romans 12:3-8

In the last lesson, you were given an overview of the body ministry gifts. Lesson 3 presented the body of Christ and how it operates. Hopefully you now understand the church and how it functions as a body to minister to its members and to the world at large. To help you identify the special ministry gift that God has given to you, we now look at the seven ministry gifts in greater detail. In Lesson 6, you will be instructed on how to receive help from your church leadership to put your gift to use where it is best suited for maximum results. But first, we examine the ministry gifts more closely.

The Ministry Gifts – Romans 12:3-8

A. The Messenger – “Prophesying”

This is the ability to speak forth the purposes and will of God into a situation for both the present and future.

The audience for the messenger can consist of both Christians and unbelievers. The message is essentially repentance, which is the turning around from going your way to following God’s way. Repentance is necessary for both salvation and ongoing correction in spiritual growth. The challenge given by the messenger is for people to daily obey God’s word to enjoy a blessed life.

Messengers are often involved in outreach ministries, leading small groups for unbelievers, discipling people one on one, and building relationships with those who have yet to come to faith in Christ.

B. The Server – “Serving”

This is the ability to sense needs in the lives of others and find fulfillment in helping to meet those needs.

This member loves to assist leaders, volunteer for projects, host events, and offer a willing hand. The server has a unique ability given by God to do somewhat ordinary tasks to assist others to accomplish extraordinary results. This person usually prefers to remain behind the scenes, can detect what needs to be done, and is willing to do it. They find a deep sense of joy in doing the task given to them. Sometimes the server can become frustrated when not asked to help because of their passion to serve. You will find servers as ushers, assistants, team members, and helpers everywhere tasks are undertaken.

C. The Teacher – “Teaching”

This is the ability to teach God’s word for learning God’s character, will, and ways.

The teacher has the extraordinary ability to expound and make clear God’s word. This member can illuminate, clarify, simplify, and illustrate God’s plan of redemption. A teacher delights in reading the Bible to discover relevant messages for today and memorizing Scripture to grow in its understanding and application. They pursue learning to teach and are themselves taught through the training process.

You will find teachers involved in preaching, one-on-one discipling, leading small groups, and communicating to larger groups.

D. The Encourager – “Encouraging”

This is the ability to build up others with presence, words, influence, encouragement, and motivating instruction.

Actions of encouraging include standing by, sitting with, guiding, strengthening, inspiring, giving instruction, consoling, aiding, and cheerleading others.

The encourager reminds people of the reality of the truth of God’s word to bring strength for undergoing challenges and remaining true to God. Sometimes an encourager is referred to as a cheerleader or affirmer. They love to spur people on to spiritual growth and maturity (Hebrews 10: 24,25) and identify with Barnabas of the New Testament church (Acts 4:36,37; 11: 22-24). The encourager enjoys building others up and particularly focuses in on those who need a pat on the back. They are more concerned about the person or the group they are inspiring than the project or event involved. They are person-oriented and feelings-centered. Unlike the teacher, the encourager’s message comes from personal experience of deep feelings rather than careful research to teach. They see value in sufferings and problems as ways of learning and maturing and will often jump into situations to offer advice. The encourager prefers short-term involvement to continuing over the long-term.

You will see encouragers involved in ministries like pastoral care, greeting, and leading a group of people to inspire them.

E. The Giver – “Contributing to the Needs of Others”

This is the ability to recognize needs and do something to meet them by acquiring and increasing resources for the purpose of giving generously.

The giver has a spirit of generosity that transcends themselves to bless others. They believe that they have what they do to give away and have an intense desire to give generously. The giver cheerfully acts as a channel of God to provide for others and does not look for recognition but is rewarded by seeing their giving make a difference. When needs are not presented to them, they look for ways to give anyway. They maintain a positive attitude toward responding to the church’s needs and sometimes feels they have not given enough even though it is above and beyond anything expected to the point of personal sacrifice.

The giver is not necessarily a wealthy person but someone who is the first to respond to a need whenever possible. You usually do not see the giver functioning comfortably in a traditional ministry role because they prefer responding to whatever when called on.

F. The Leader – “Leadership”

This is the ability to set goals and reach them for the well-being of everyone involved.

The leader motivates the members of the body to accomplish objectives with harmony.

Leaders like to create and cast vision, rarely being satisfied with the status quo. They believe that people active in the vision personally benefit through their involvement. The leader is often visible to the group to promote the plan. They also influence others behind the scenes to get them on board. Leaders live more by faith than by sight and ask, ‘why not’ more than they ask ‘why’.

You see leaders as directors, managers, ministry team leaders, and project guides. They can sometimes appear to be more visionary than practical and more futuristic than contemporary as they continue to look beyond the present to what is ahead.

G. The Comforter – “Showing Mercy”

This is the ability to feel empathy for others and translate that sensitivity into joyful ministry to the other people.

The comforter relates to the pain of the other person. This is more than sympathizing; it is feeling what others feel. They identify so closely with the needy person that they look for ways to bring relief to the sufferer and cannot rest until they do. When successful, the comforter experiences satisfaction at a deep level.

You see the comforter as counselors and social workers. They tend to be more interested in unhealthy and distressed people than healthy ones. They constantly see needs and are drawn to them, taking the time necessary to come alongside the distressed. You find comforters in ministries like pastoral care and intercession that require long term involvement in each situation.

1. Which of these gifts do you see in yourself? If more than one, which one is dominant?

2. In what practical ways have you seen this gift being used in other people? Give an example.

3. What needs could be met as you use this gift in any of the ways described in the lesson?

4. Has anyone else ever recognized this gift in you? When and how?

5. Have you discussed your ministry potential with your pastors?
If so, what did they say? What was your follow through?

If not, what should be your next step? What would prevent you from proceeding?

6. How do you think you will benefit personally by putting your gift to use?

Your Response

- Thank God for providing the body with such a variety of gifts.
- Thank God that he has given you a gift to use to serve others.
- Ask God to help you find opportunities to use and develop your gift.
- Pray that you will be effective in your ministry so that Jesus will be praised.

Lesson 6: Equipped to Serve

The Big Deal!

Spiritual leaders can prepare you to serve effectively.

Ephesians 4:11-16

Through our lessons to this point, you have discovered the importance of serving others and managing your talents capably as a follower of Christ. You have also learned that God has gifted you in unique ways to serve. But how do you put all of this together for your life and ministry? How do you find your most effective place of service as part of the body?

The good news is God has provided a way for you to be trained, equipped, and released into a fruitful life of service for Christ. Our Scripture passage describes how Jesus has designed the body to be mature, healthy, and growing. The Lord has placed people in his body with abilities to prepare each member to reach their full serving potential in Christ. We sometimes call these people the *equipping gifts* of the church. Christ has appointed certain individuals within his body to function in spiritual leadership roles with the specific purpose of training others to serve competently. They fulfill one of the following roles (4:11):

A. Apostles – Those sent with a commission from God.

These are leaders sent out to establish a solid foundation for a group of believers forming a church community. Once the group matures and becomes self-supporting, apostles often turn over leadership responsibilities to pastors for long-term ministry training and care. Modern day apostles are often church planters who go into unreached territory to establish congregations. When operating in other cultures we refer to them as missionaries who engage unbelievers with the gospel with the plan to make disciples and develop local leaders to carry on the work when they leave.

B. Prophets – Proclaimers of God's revealed will.

Prophets are messengers for God speaking mainly to believers. They are burdened with giving God's opinion and are not overly concerned about popular opinion. They judge what they do and say by the Bible and are consumed with calling people to repentance. Their goal is for everyone to commit themselves to live a godly life.

C. Evangelists – Proclaimers of the gospel of Christ.

The evangelist is first a messenger to unbelievers. They also teach believers how to reach the world with the gospel. In a sense they are the obstetricians of the church who concern themselves with the spiritual birth of new babies in Christ. Everything they do centres around calling people into a relationship with Jesus and inspiring others to do the same.

D. Pastors and Teachers – Shepherds of God's people who effectively communicate God's word.

These leaders have two main passions. The first focus of pastors is to take care of God's sheep by making sure they are being spiritually fed, protected, and trained. The second aspect is teaching the truth of God's word to equip members with sound doctrine for godly living and serving.

1. What is the benefit of having more than one equipping gift in the church?
2. What is the primary function of these leadership gifts? (4:12a)

Serving in ministry effectively is something you learn to do. You can become overwhelmed trying to figure out where God wants you to be in his plan. Thankfully, the Lord has provided you with spiritual leaders in the church who are called, gifted, and capable to help you develop your full potential in Christ. The word translated *equip* means to make something fit in its right place or to complete something that is unfinished. It can also mean to restore function out of dysfunction or to put something in proper condition for its intended purpose. Pastors and the other equipping gifts have been provided for you by Jesus to prepare you to serve effectively.

- Apostles prepare you to reach the lost.
- Prophets prepare you to call people to live for God.
- Evangelists prepare you to share the gospel with unbelievers.
- Pastors and Teachers help you know the word of God and apply it to your life.

The goal of the equipping gifts is not to do all the ministry themselves, but to equip the members of the body to serve. The church greatly limits its potential for health and growth when it expects the pastor to do what the whole body is gifted to do.

Benefits of the Body Being Equipped to Serve:

- A. Strengthening (4:12b)
“...so that the body of Christ may be built up”
- B. Unity in the Faith (4:13a)
“...until we all reach unity in the faith”
- C. Unity in the Knowledge of Christ (4:13b)
“...until we all reach unity...in the knowledge of the Son of God”
- D. Maturity in Character and Conduct (4:13c)
“...become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ”
- E. Maturity in Doctrine (4:14)
“...no longer...infants...”
- F. Maturity in Integrity (4:15)
“...speaking the truth in love...”
- G. Spiritual Growth and Conditioning (4:16)
“...grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.”

3. Pick one of the benefits above and describe how it facilitates your spiritual growth.
4. What would the attitude of members be that belonged to this flourishing church?
5. Why is it important for spiritual leaders like pastors to see themselves as equippers?
6. What practical things can you do to help your pastors and other leaders to prepare the members for works of service?

The church can be a healthy body when every member participates. Never forget you are not on your own trying to figure out your place of service as a follower of Christ. Jesus has provided you with the people resources to be trained, equipped, and released into effective ministry. Your part is to have the desire to serve and make yourself accountable to those the Lord has given to the church to help you grow, mature, and be productive in the kingdom.

Your Response

- Take time to name and thank God for the equippers he has given to your church.
- Pray that God will strengthen each one of your spiritual leaders daily and help them fulfill the calling he has placed on their lives.
- Thank the Lord he has given you the desire to be a faithful servant of Jesus.
- Thank God he has gifted you with what you need to serve him and others.
- Make yourself available to your pastors and spiritual equippers to train you to serve with the body effectively.

Lesson 7: Serving A Lost World

The Big Deal!

Jesus wants you to care for lost people by serving them.

1 Timothy 1:15,16

It is a natural thing to love and look after people that you are related to. You care about members of your family and want to do what you can for them. As a believer, you are part of the family of God, a child of the heavenly Father. Once you understand God's desire for you to serve others, your next step is to look for ways to minister to members of your spiritual family. That is good and, as you learned in the last lesson, it strengthens and builds up the body of Christ, producing wholeness and maturity throughout.

It is normal for believers to mainly focus on trying to meet the needs of the church family. However, Jesus never intended that the body only looks after itself. Members are also called to engage with those who have not become members of God's family through faith in Christ. Jesus perfectly modeled for his followers how to reach out to lost people. In this lesson we look at Jesus' ministry to a lost world and how this relates to your life of serving in ministry.

1. Why did Jesus come into the world? (1 Timothy 1:15)
2. The apostle Paul had a powerful testimony. What is the story of transformation that your life tells an unbelieving world? (1 Timothy 1:16)

Are you glad that Jesus came to earth to save you? Always remember to thank Christ for the mercy that he has shown you through his gift of salvation. You have become an example of the transforming power of Jesus' love to those who have not yet accepted Christ as Lord and Saviour. Jesus is still focused on reaching the lost and he has chosen you to be actively involved in his saving ministry. As you practically serve others, you portray what Jesus has done for you and what he is willing to do for anyone who will believe in him.

As you look at the world in which you live, who do you see? Think about the lives you meet day in and day out at work, school, home, and play. Do you see these people as Jesus sees them? Do you know that many of the people in your daily life are lost eternally? What would Jesus have you do?

3. Read Matthew 9:35-38. In your own words describe:
 - a. How Jesus responds to lost people.
 - b. What Jesus expects his followers (disciples) to do about a lost world.

Jesus models how to serve a lost world. This Scripture passage contains several principles you need to understand and apply to continue Christ's saving work.

4. How did Jesus find people who were lost? (9:35)

Notice that Jesus did not wait for lost people to come to him although sometimes they did find him on their own. Christ went to where the lost were living and working. He was about marketplace ministry, going where unbelievers were and reaching out to them. This is an effective approach today.

Jesus was prepared for each situation as he interacted with lost people. He was always equipped and ready to teach and preach and heal in the power of the Holy Spirit. And you, someone transformed by God, must also be ready always to minister to lost people. Stay committed to being trained and equipped as a servant of Christ to move about in the marketplace of your life with eternal purpose.

5. Why did Jesus have compassion for lost people? (9:36)

Is this not a good description of people in your world today? You know those who are being harassed by the troubles of life and feeling helpless to find a solution to their distress. Our Scripture gives the picture of lost people being like a flock of sheep who have no shepherd. You know that the shepherd that they need for their lives is Jesus Christ, the Great Shepherd. It is our mission to help lost people find the Lord they need.

Learning to serve others effectively requires developing a heart of compassion like Jesus. It is more than feeling sorry for people in a bad situation and leaving it there. True compassion of Jesus is rooted in the love of God for the world. It reaches out to serve others so their lives will be transformed by God's power through finding Christ.

6. Jesus compares lost people to a harvest of souls ready to be reaped. How big is the harvest and what is the greatest challenge for gathering it? (9:37)

It is tragic to think that much of the harvest of souls can be lost because there are not enough followers of Christ willing to serve an unbelieving world with Jesus. How would this situation be different if every person who has been transformed by Christ willingly joined Jesus in his mission of seeking and saving the lost? Obviously, the impact for the Lord would be dramatic as every follower of Christ did their part in reaching out to unbelievers with God's love.

7. What does Jesus tell you to do to solve the problem of too few workers? (v.38)

Jesus instructs us to pray first for followers of Christ to be sent out to reach lost people. Apparently, there are unbelievers ready to be saved but no one is impacting their lives for Christ. Praying this prayer will also dramatically change and prepare your heart to be one of the workers Christ works through in his harvest field.

Praying this way also partners you with the Holy Spirit as he convicts other followers of Christ to pray the same prayer and become part of God's solution to reach a lost world.

Let us not only serve one another in the church, which is important and necessary, but let us also find ways to serve lost people and influence them to follow Christ.

Your Response

- Take some time and think again of the people that your life touches each day.
- How many of these people are clearly fellow believers in Jesus Christ? Thank God for each of them and pray that your partnership in the gospel with them will grow.
- How many of these people are not part of the family of God through faith in Christ? Thank God for them and pray that they will see that your life has been transformed by Christ's love and power and will want to be changed too.
- Pray that the Lord will stir the hearts of every believer in Christ to look at the people in their lives as Jesus sees them and daily join him in the work of his harvest field.

Lesson 8: Fueling Your Passion for Serving

The Big Deal!

You can finish strong when you keep your passion.

1 Corinthians 15:58

Being a servant of Jesus Christ is an important calling and privilege. When you first discover that Jesus has a plan for your life to work with him to build a healthy body and reach a lost world with the gospel, you can be excited and motivated to be involved in ministry.

However, when you serve for any length of time, you can experience periods of frustration, fatigue, and lost passion. Serving in ministry over the long term requires both fueling up and giving out on a regular basis.

Serving can be very rewarding. You experience a sense of fulfillment when you see lives dramatically changed through your ministry. As well, close relationships often develop with others that you serve with. There is also great satisfaction being faithful to Christ doing what he has gifted you to do for him.

At the same time, ministry can be draining physically, spiritually, and emotionally. Investing in the lives of people for eternity has the greatest potential for impact of anything you can ever do. It is wise therefore, to be ready for the different seasons of serving and be careful to keep the fire for ministry burning in your heart for every occasion. We now consider how to do this.

1. It is possible to serve in ministry for the wrong reasons. Can you list any?

When you lose sight of the fact that your best motivation for ministry is your love for Christ because he first loved you, you can find yourself going through the motions of serving with very little passion. Even with the right motivation for serving, you will at times feel exhausted, discouraged, and drained because of constantly giving out for the sake of others.

2. What would be symptoms of someone who has lost their passion for ministry?

3 C's That Fuel Your Passion for Ministry – 1 Corinthians 15:58

This Scripture contains three directives to follow to maintain your spiritual fervor for Christ and his kingdom work.

A. Conviction – "...stand firm"

3. What do strong convictions have to do with having passion for ministry?

4. Read 2 Timothy 1:12. Put in your own words what Paul says is at the heart of his conviction about Christ and his work.

B. Commitment – “Let nothing move you.”

5. Is this verse talking about being obstinate about things or being immovable in another sense? Give examples of the differences.
6. Read Colossians 1:22,23. What must you do with your faith and hope to maintain your ministry resolve and commitment to holiness?

C. Consecration – “Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord...”

7. What are the implications of the word ‘always’ in this command?
8. What does it mean to give yourself fully to God’s work?

The thing that separates true ministry from anything else you do is its guaranteed eternal effect. God is not giving you a pep talk like a motivational speaker trying to change your thinking from negative to positive. The Lord is speaking reality to you with these words that you will be continually encouraged and passionate about serving Christ and his purposes.

9. What is the promise that the Lord makes to encourage you to stay passionate in ministry?

When you serve the Lord with passion you will be effective and produce eternal fruit. Lives will be touched and changed for the glory of God because he will continue to work in and through you. This is helpful to remember when you do not feel like you are making any difference in your service. It is true that ministry for the Lord is often obscure, unannounced, unacclaimed, and unnoticed by most people. It is important however to never forget God’s high view of humble service in whatever form it takes so that you can experience the joy that comes from being faithful. Passion for ministry produced through conviction, commitment, and consecration will fuel your desire to serve and encourage you as you do.

Your Response

- Take a moment to consider where you are in your service for Christ.
- Do you still have the passion to do what the Lord has gifted, equipped, and released you to do for his purposes?
- Why do you think that is?
- Have you lost sight of the work that is being accomplished for eternity by your faithfulness?
- Do you have less zeal for serving that you once had?
- When did you start noticing your lack of spiritual passion?

- Do you want to restore your passion for Christ and his work?
- Quote 1 Corinthians 15: 58 by memory.
- How do you plan to integrate conviction, commitment, and consecration into daily life?
- Encourage a fellow believer with this Scripture and get out and get serving for Jesus' sake with renewed passion.

A Word of Encouragement To You

You have completed the *Learning to Serve* course. Hopefully you have been helped to see the potential that God has created in you to serve Christ, his body, and the world he came to save. Every follower of Jesus has been called by him to be an active part of building his kingdom with him. The next *Life Transformation* course focuses on key elements of spiritual leadership that build on the principles you have learned about serving well. *Learning to Lead* is a good refresher for those already in leadership at any level and a helpful overview of spiritual leadership for those who are interested in what is involved.

Congratulations on your progress in your spiritual development thus far. May you daily allow God to transform you to partner with Jesus in his eternal plan with passion.



LEARNING TO SERVE

STUDY GUIDE

Lesson 1: Learning About Serving

The Big Deal!

Emphasize that serving is learned by following Jesus' example and teaching.

Question 1 – As a Christian, Jesus is now your Lord. You must condition yourself to serve Jesus and not yourself which requires a major shift to thinking like a servant.

Question 2 – Your motivation for serving cannot be to try to earn or buy God's favour. Serving is your loving response to God's grace to you.

Question 3 – Being chosen by Christ should add significant value to every task. What is done for Jesus has eternal impact worthy of your best effort.

Question 4 – Your position as Christ's servant is not temporary but eternal. You sign on for the long haul and your success will be according to your faithful track-record of serving.

Question 5 – You decide to become more like Jesus so that others will be attracted to him by your example.

Question 6 – A lifestyle of worship to God is possible by offering yourself daily to the Lord as a servant who is totally and sacrificially devoted to him.

Question 7 – Because time is short, it is very important to make the most of every opportunity. Jesus could return at any moment, and you will be evaluated on what you have done, not what you were going to do. Becoming a better server develops over time.

Question 8 – Effective servers are forgivers. When you truly love people, you will be inclined to extend grace to them even when they offend you. Forgiveness is the picture of true love in action.

Question 9 – When you serve others you get your eyes off yourself. When you open your home and life to people with a good attitude, you are showing that you accept them as people with value.

Question 10 – You have received God's grace to express it faithfully as a server. Gifts will be discussed further in lessons 3, 4, 5 and 6.

Question 11 – Feelings are generally unreliable because they are subject to change. God will give you the strength to do everything he asks you to do. You are on your own doing the things God is not asking you to do.

Question 12 – God is praised through Christ when you serve faithfully. It is like you are shining a spotlight on God for everyone to see through your good works (Matthew 5:14-16).

Your Response - Encourage your group to see Jesus as their example of an effective server.

Discussion Group Questions – Lesson 1

1. Do you like to be served? Why?
2. Have you ever been given poor service? Describe it.
3. What did you think about the server?
4. Describe a time that you received exceptional service.
5. What effect did the good service have on your attitude towards the server?
6. When you serve someone, what are you trying to accomplish for them? For yourself?
7. What difference does it make to the world that Jesus came to serve people, not to be served?
8. What kinds of opportunities to bless people open up to you when you are ready to serve?

Lesson 2: Managing God's Trust in You

The Big Deal!

Emphasize that anything that you possess belongs to God and he expects you to manage it well for him.

Question 1 – Faithfulness is the true measure of success. Jesus teaches that it is not how much you have but what you do with it that matters. God trusts you with many things and you are to honour his confidence in you by being a faithful and godly steward.

Question 2 – Jesus is your master – you are his servant. What you have in your possession has been placed there by Jesus to manage for him. Jesus trusts you as his follower and you are to prove that trust is warranted.

Question 3 – Bags of gold were given to each servant according to their ability as determined by the master.

Question 4 – All three servants did something with their gold because they knew the master meant business. Their involvement was not optional.

Question 5 – The 5 and 2 bags of gold servants were motivated by the trust in them, and they used the resources to bring increase. They anticipated favorable results.

Question 6 – The 1 bag of gold servant was paralyzed by fear and decided to play it safe. He did not put the resources to use in any way to bring increase. He expected minimal results.

Question 7 – Stress the importance of considering first what Christ would want you to do in these areas. What would using your skills, time, money, family, and job to advance Christ's cause look like?

Question 8 – The good stewards were commended with words of value, rewarded with increased responsibility, and invited to celebrate success with Jesus.

Question 9 – The unfaithful steward was rebuked with words of criticism, demoted with total loss, and sent to experience ultimate torment.

Your Response - Before the response time, talk about the importance of answering the question about what increase you would be able to give back to Jesus should He return today.

To solidify the response, consider discussing and praying the 3 commitments of the good steward with your group members.

Discussion Group Questions – Lesson 2

1. Describe what a manager is and does.
2. Give an example of a manager of a team or business that has been successful.
3. What qualities would the owner of an enterprise look for in hiring a manager?
4. What is the major difference between the owner and the manager?
5. What does the owner empower the manager to do?
6. What does it mean that God is the owner, and you are the manager of what you have?
7. How does being God's manager (steward) affect the way you handle your possessions?
8. Why is it important to realize that one day in the future you will give an account to God of what you have done with his stuff?
9. Describe your long-term plan to bring increase to the Lord through what he has entrusted to you?
10. Who do you know that could help you to develop a good management plan for your life?

Lesson 3: Serving With Others

The Big Deal!

Emphasize that every believer is a member of the Body of Christ and has a part to play in ministry.

Question 1 – It is easy to forget that the church exists to accomplish Christ’s purposes and not yours. You may be tempted at times to ask what the body can do for you instead of what you can do for the body. Also, keep in mind that Jesus sets the agenda for the church and not those with money or power.

Question 2 – Body life will not become ingrown and mundane if new people are being added to it regularly. This happens as the community is positively impacted by transformed people in the everyday world by believers modeling honest and healthy relationships.

Question 3 – Most people today are looking for somewhere to belong where they are loved and accepted regardless of age and imperfections. The body provides that place of belonging.

Question 4 – God is the master planner of all things who knows precisely where each part of the body belongs. You are limited because you do not have perfect knowledge.

Question 5 - Belonging puts the onus on you to do your part to encourage and facilitate overall growth of the body. You are being counted on.

Question 6 – It is an impossible task for a designated few people to meet the needs of the whole body. It was never Christ’s intention that the leaders do all the pastoral care. Ministry to the body is a responsibility of all the members.

Question 7 – People often feel like they are losing their freedom when they make themselves accountable for their spiritual growth and actions. However, the cost of being unaccountable includes feeling disconnected to the body and uncared for.

Question 8 – Listen to the responses about what a pastor does. Reinforce the point that the pastor and other equippers are given the primary function of preparing the body members for ministry. There will be further opportunity for discussion of this concept in lesson 6.

Question 9 – Manifestation gifts are special enablings of God beyond our own natural abilities. They are given to help us accomplish God’s agenda supernaturally as they are needed. These gifts are examined in greater detail in lessons 7 & 8 of *Life in the Spirit*.

Question 10 – The ministry gifts are all equally important for accomplishing Christ’s mission. These are discussed in lessons 4 & 5 in more detail.

Discussion Group Questions – Lesson 3

1. Why do you think the Bible describes the church as a body?
2. What advantage is there for you to be part of a body rather than being on your own?
3. How important is the fact that there is only one body of Christ? What are the implications?
4. Why is the body of Christ a good place for every person to belong?
5. What parts of the human body can survive without being connected to the whole body?
6. Why should members be reminded of that as it relates to the church body?
7. What things do you do to take care of your physical body? Why do you do these things?
8. Who benefits when the body of Christ is taken care of and grows healthy?
9. What are you doing to promote a healthy church body? Who benefits when the church body is functioning in a healthy and productive way?
10. Why do you have to be reminded regularly reminded that you are called to serve, not be served?

Lesson 4: Ministry Gifts – You Have One

The Big Deal!

Emphasize that the body has been gifted by God with enough gifts to accomplish His mission.

Question 1 – Humility is a healthy balance between not being prideful of your abilities and using your gifts with confidence in God.

Question 2 – You are one part of a body made up of many parts that belong to each other. You can work together in unity to produce good works.

Question 3 – There is richness in diversity as different members with the same gifts or other gifts work in harmony to accomplish the same goal.

Question 4 – Ask for the group’s ideas before giving your examples.

Your Response – The response time can be used to reinforce the big deal and how each group member can be used by God.

Discussion Group Questions – Lesson 4

1. What is a gift in the everyday sense?
2. Why would someone give a gift to a person?
3. Who benefits from gift-giving? How?
4. What do you need to do with a gift to enjoy it?
5. What things has God given to you?
6. What should your attitude be towards God for giving so much to you? How do you show it?
7. What do you need to do with God’s gifts to enjoy them?
8. In what ways can you serve others with what God has given you?
9. What effect will it have on people as you thank God for His gifts and use them to bless others?
10. What is the limit of God’s ability to give good gifts to those who love Him?

Lesson 5: Ministry Gifts – A Closer Look to Find Yours

The Big Deal!

Emphasize that you can identify what your gift is and use it to serve.

Question 1 – Help the group members to express ideas about their possible gifts. This will be easier if you know the members and have seen them in action.

Question 2 – These examples are first impressions of group members and not conclusive validation.

Question 3 – Think of some ways this gift can be used to serve others.

Question 4 – Do not prolong this if no one responds. Follow up by describing how gift recognition happens.

Question 5 – Encourage the group members to meet with a pastor to talk about matching their gifts with ministry.

Question 6 – Answers should include personal spiritual growth and a sense of joy in serving others.

Discussion Group Questions – Lesson 5

1. How does someone find their place of effective service in the body of Christ?
2. How helpful is it to recognize how God has gifted you to serve? Why?
3. In what ways will you benefit by using God's gifts to serve others?
4. What will it do for others when you take your gifts and use them in ministry?
5. What are telltale signs that members of the body are not putting their gifts to good use?
6. How will the community at large benefit as body members use their gifts?
7. What would you advise someone to do that does not know what their gift is?
8. What is your plan to make sure your gift does not go to waste, but is put to good use?

Lesson 6: Equipped to Serve

The Big Deal!

Emphasize that spiritual leaders can prepare you to use your gift to serve effectively.

Question 1 – God never intended for anyone to minister on their own. Spiritual leadership is much more than one person. Working as a team brings strength to the leaders and encourages the body through diversity of leadership gifts and styles.

Question 2 – Training is required in any vocation to learn to do a good job. Effective ministry is the result of ongoing equipping of the members by those who are qualified and gifted for the task.

Question 3 – This can reveal areas that group members need help in and offer practical examples of training they have received and used.

Question 4 – This church would be full of joyful people reaping the benefits of intentional leadership training and faithful serving by the members.

Question 5 – Spiritual leaders need to focus on their primary calling to move the body towards experiencing wholeness, maturity, and growth.

Question 6 – Pray God's best for your pastors, encourage them with thankful words and your presence, and confirm their ministry assignment by serving with joy.

Discussion Group Questions – Lesson 6

1. What does a pastor do? Why are they also called teachers?
2. What does it take to pastor people effectively over time?
3. Why does the body of Christ need pastor / teachers?
4. What do you know about what apostles, prophets and evangelists do? Name some.
5. How important are leaders in any group or organization? Why?
6. Describe what a group without a leader would look like.
7. Why does Jesus need human leaders to administrate his church?
8. Who are more valuable to the body – leaders or followers? Why?
9. What would be the result of having leaders, but no followers? Followers, but no leaders?
10. In what ways can you help your pastors and others spiritual leaders to be effective?

Lesson 7: Serving a Lost World

The Big Deal!

Emphasize that Jesus' mission for you and the church is to reach lost people with him.

Question 1 – Jesus came into the world to save sinners (See John 3:16; Luke 19:10; Matthew 9:12, 13; Luke 15:7, 10, 32.) This is important to remember because Christ's primary mission must be considered in everything the church is and does.

Question 2 – Like Paul, you have been shown mercy as the worst of sinners. You have been shown unlimited patience by Christ. He waited for you to accept his invitation to be forgiven of your sins and to receive eternal life. Your life story gives evidence that if God can save you, he can save anyone.

Question 3 – A. Jesus sees lost people as being harassed and helpless because he is full of compassion. Helping the lost takes times to teach them, preach the gospel to them, and heal them of their diseases and sickness. B. Three things are required for Christ's followers: First, see that the harvest of lost souls is plentiful; second, pray to the Lord of the harvest to send forth labourers; third, go into the harvest field and do your part to gather in the lost.

Question 4 – Jesus did not wait for people to come to him. Rather, he went through the towns and villages ministering to people with the love of God. By doing this, he encountered the lost where they were.

Question 5 – Jesus saw people scattered like sheep without a shepherd. People need a leader for their lives who will care for them and give them direction. Jesus knows what people need and is ready to help them.

Question 6 – The harvest of souls ready to be reaped is abundant, but there are not enough workers in the field to reap them all. More labourers are required to make sure that none of the harvest is lost.

Question 7 – Praying is essential preparation for every good work. God is ready to send out more workers when you pray and ask him to.

Your Response - Work through the list of people from your group members' lives and help them get started on an intentional plan to impact these souls for Christ. Encourage each member to keep these lost people in their prayers and ask the Lord to bless them as they live out the good news of the gospel each day.

Discussion Group Questions – Lesson 7

1. What do you like about being a Christ follower?
2. How different were you when you were spiritually lost? Why must you remember that?
3. How much do you think lost people matter to God? Why does he care?
4. To what lengths did Jesus go to rescue you from your lostness?
5. What would cause you to believe that Christ is still passionate about finding lost people?
6. How do you think lost people are going to find Jesus as their Saviour?
7. How should God's opinion of loving lost people affect you?
8. What is your plan to help reach the lost in the world in which you live?
9. How will serving others give you credibility with lost people?
10. What story does your life tell the world about God's transforming love and power?

Lesson 8: Fueling Your Passion For Serving

The Big Deal!

Emphasize that you can serve successfully as you maintain your spiritual passion.

Question 1 – Wrong motivations for ministry include feeling pressured to serve, being manipulated by guilt, trying to feel good about yourself, or trying to earn favour with God.

Question 2 – Passionless people could appear lifeless, dry, out of sorts, discouraged, and negative.

Question 3 – You will be tempted to give into your feelings of discouragement unless you have strong convictions to hold onto as you face different kinds of challenges.

Question 4 – Paul is not ever ashamed to suffer for Christ because He knows Jesus enough and is confident in God's ability to keep him secure until the end of his life.

Question 5 – This is not referring to being obstinate against the work of the Holy Spirit in you or your ministry but being unwavering (unmovable) in your faith in Christ. Nothing can shake you from trusting the Lord to accomplish his purposes through you.

Question 6 – Eternal hope is fully secure by faith in Christ.

Question 7 – 'Always' means without exception, on a daily basis, a full-time endeavour. You are always involved God's work.

Question 8 – You are to abound in, excel in, dedicate to, and be faithful to the ministry.

Question 9 – What you do for Christ will bear eternal fruit when you minister for the Lord with everything that is within you.

Your Response – In this final lesson, be sure to take some time to reflect on what you have learned in this course. Briefly review some of the lessons of serving Christ in his work.

Ask what one or two things stood out for the group members in this course and what they are going to concentrate on doing in the coming days.

Close with a time of prayer, committing to going out and serving for Jesus' sake.

Discussion Group Questions – Lesson 8

1. Have you ever lost your enthusiasm for serving others? Why did that happen?
2. Is it normal to go through times when your serving tank is running low on passion? When does this happen?
3. What is the difference in results of serving with passion and serving without it?
4. What things have you tried to restore your passion? Did they work? For how long?
5. Can you name people in the Bible who lost their spiritual passion for a time? What did they do to recover?
6. How dangerous is it to depend on your feelings for passion to serve instead of your faith?
7. How can you tell when a person is passionate about what they are doing?
8. What effect does it have on people when they see you serve God and others passionately?
9. What have you learned in this course about the potential in serving others?
10. What plan do you have in place to be a server that makes Jesus look good?



Life transformation is a lifestyle—daily living to the full potential of Christ in you. A renewed mind is the key to a transformed life. I want to provide you with resources dedicated to helping you reach this goal.

It is always a joy to see lost people find Jesus as Lord and Saviour. However, that is but the beginning of learning to live as a disciple of Christ. Jesus has provided the means for us to be completely changed from living our way, which is limited, to living God's way, which is unlimited. Life transformation requires learning to obey Christ's teachings in order to help others discover daily life transformation for themselves.

I have developed the Life Transformations resources for both new Christians and those who have been following Jesus for some time. Newer Christians will benefit from learning the essentials of how to live for Christ. Older Christians will be better equipped to lead others to faith in Jesus and help them to grow in maturity and ministry.

My prayer is that you will flourish as Jesus' disciple in your everyday world and will prosper in everything you do to honour God.

Be transformed by the renewing of your mind daily – that's life at its best!

- Del Wells

About the Author

Del Wells is an ordained minister with the Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada and pastored in the local church for 37 years.

God has given Del a vision to see people in every community live to their full potential in Christ. He has developed resources to aid in the equipping of followers of Jesus to experience daily transformation in life and ministry and to be able to impact others in their everyday world to do the same.

For an overview of the Life Transformation courses available, please visit www.freedomkw.com/next.