

HOW TO SERVE — PART I

MEETING

11

step **1**

"HIGHS" & "LOWS," AND PRAYER TIME

In accountability, be sure to use your times of "Highs & Lows" not just as positive and not-so-good memories into sharing areas where you truly honored God and areas your need to grow. This habit is an easy way of sharpening one another for our good and God's glory.

step **2**

FOLLOW UP

Evaluate how you did on last meeting's GO. If you need a reminder of what you pledged to do, turn back to page 70.

NAME	RYG	WHAT YOU DID	WHAT GOD DID
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step 3

HOW TO SERVE

Today you will be talking about How to Serve. This is the trickiest of the 4 Core Competencies to train someone else in because everyone serves different people in different ways. Therefore, unlike the other competencies, you won't be practicing this competency as a group. For instance, this meeting could charge you as a group to go volunteer at a soup kitchen. There would be some who would LOVE it because the Spirit has gifted them with a heart for service. Others would see it as a task to be completed, a box to be checked. Such a perspective of service needs to be addressed.

Very often in churches, "service" can be boiled down to participating in a one-time event helping people we will most likely never see again. Unless you have been uniquely gifted, we give up our Saturday morning reluctantly out of a sense of duty. This is a poor view of service for two reasons. First, the goal of service is not to accomplish a task. If this were true, serving someone would be no different than a chore. Yet, if you are like me, this is how we have treated service opportunities in the past. Christian service is more than filling a belly or clothing a person (though these things are included). Thus, Christian service is not the same as social justice. There is something more to it. Second, Christian service is about God, not the one serving or the one being served. If Christian service is about God, we serve because of how it makes God feel. Some have served because it makes them feel good and others smile. Those who serve this way are dependent on appreciation and recognition. Think about it— how many of us serve well when we aren't appreciated? How many of us respond in grace when a gift we give is not well received? But if we serve because it delights the heart of God, everything changes. By blessing someone else, we are responding to the gospel as well as demonstrating it, even if it isn't well received.

Jesus always served to point someone to God, and he taught his disciples to do the same (cf Matt 5:46-6:4). Jesus washed the feet of his disciples knowing that one of them would betray him shortly after that (John 13:1-17). Christ's ultimate example of service was seen on Calvary as he died so that his enemies (whom he loved) might be reconciled to God. Colossians 1:19-20 reads, "For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross." Christ's perfect service delighted the heart of God. If we are to learn how to serve, we must look to Christ. Christ's model for service is apparent when he fed the 5000 in Mark 6:30-44. This model can be remembered by 3 C's: Consider, Consult, Complete.

CONSIDER

For service to be possible, there must first be a need. If we do not first consider the needs of others, we can serve no one. In the story of the Feeding of the 5000, we see in Mark 6:34 that Jesus "saw" the people and "had compassion" on them. The verb "saw" here didn't just mean they came into his view. It means that he perceived their need. This perception of their need moved him into compassion for them. It led Jesus to healing them, preaching to them, and feeding them. His disciples even considered that these people, who journeyed to a desolate place and listened to Jesus all day, were very hungry. If we are to grow as servants, we must start by considering the needs of those around us.

CONSULT

Once Jesus recognized their need, the next thing he did was consult the Lord. After sitting the groups down, Mark 6:41 states that "he looked up to heaven and said a blessing". Jesus, though he is God, sought his Father's will in all things. He acknowledged God as the source of the miraculous service that was about to take place. Bad things happen when we try to serve without consulting the Lord in prayer. Joshua 9 provides an example of this. The Israelite leaders were deceived into making a treaty with the Gibeonites, because they did not consult the Lord (see Jos 9:14). Once we have considered the needs of those around us, we must consult the Lord in prayer. We seek guidance over whom to serve and how to serve them. We also ask God to join his power with our efforts, so that he might receive the glory.

COMPLETE

The last thing we do is complete the service for the glory of God. Mark 6:41-42 goes on to say that Jesus “broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples to set before the people. And he divided the two fish among them all. And they all ate and were satisfied.” When we serve, many times we might be meeting a physical, tangible need as Jesus did here. Yet notice something: there were 5,000 men being fed. Matthew’s account states that the women and children weren’t being accounted for in this number (Matt 14:21). So, the number of the crowd was probably around 20,000 people. All of these people were served food miraculously by the Creator of the Universe from 5 loaves and 2 fish. Such a miracle could only be compared to God’s provision of manna in the desert years ago. However, not all of them believed. The Pharisees would even antagonize him (Mark 8:11-13). After Jesus ascends into heaven in Acts 1, only 120 brothers remained. That means a vast majority of this crowd was there to enjoy the show. They didn’t walk the aisle and accept him as Lord and Savior. They would later grumble, forget, and demand a new sign. But Jesus didn’t perform this miracle for his glory or to get a positive response from them. He completed the service for his Father’s glory.

This is such a powerful truth for us to embrace. If we serve others to delight the heart of God in response to all he has done for us, we are no longer shackled by the fear of how someone might respond. When the Holy Spirit is working in and through you, you can serve your spouse when you don’t feel appreciated; you can respond well when your kid complains about the food you prepared; you can joyfully serve someone who has wronged you in the past. So, if you want to serve in this way, remember CCC:

- **CONSIDER** the needs of others.
- **CONSULT** the Lord in prayer.
- **COMPLETE** the service for the Lord.



SERVING THOSE CLOSE TO US

We are going to practice CCC as a GO Group. Through this process, each member will come up with a GO they will pledge to take in Step 5. These GOs can be the same, but they don’t have to be. To develop these GOs, answer the following questions as they apply to your group below.

CONSIDER

1. What needs do you perceive in the following places?

MY HOME (<i>spouse, children, roommates, etc.</i>)
MY CONNECT GROUP
MY CROSSROAD(S)

2. What are ways you can meet those needs? Brainstorm service ideas as a group. Spend some time on this. Develop and refine ideas as a group. Remember, we are taking GOs here. These service ideas should cost you something (time, money, and/or effort).

MY HOME (<i>spouse, children, roommates, etc.</i>)
MY CONNECT GROUP
MY CROSSROAD(S)

CONSULT

Now spend some time praying over these ideas. Use the ACTS method you learned in Meeting 9. You are consulting the Lord to seek his guidance and power in your service. If at any time during this process you felt the Lord prompting you towards one idea, select this as your service to complete. If you don't feel prompted towards a particular idea, pick one that seems best to you. As an added challenge, consider serving someone in each of the three areas you brainstormed.

COMPLETE

Resolve to complete this act of service by making this your GO for this meeting in Step 5. Hold one another accountable to seeing this through. Remember, you are doing this because Christ first served you; your service delights the heart of God. We aren't doing this for recognition. If your service is not well received, the best thing you can do is listen to them on how you can serve them next time.

step **5**

GO TIME!

Put your discussion into practice. Record what GO you want to take as well as how and when you intend to do it.

Take one of the service ideas you came up with and turn it into your GO.



NAME

WHAT YOU WANT TO DO

MAKE IT MEASURABLE

WHEN: _____

HOW: _____

NAME

WHAT YOU WANT TO DO

MAKE IT MEASURABLE

WHEN: _____

HOW: _____

NAME

WHAT YOU WANT TO DO

MAKE IT MEASURABLE

WHEN: _____

HOW: _____

NAME

WHAT YOU WANT TO DO

MAKE IT MEASURABLE

WHEN: _____

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NAME

WHAT YOU WANT TO DO

MAKE IT MEASURABLE

WHEN: _____

HOW: _____

NAME

WHAT YOU WANT TO DO

MAKE IT MEASURABLE

WHEN: _____

HOW: _____

step **6**

END GROUP WITH PRAYER (ACTS)

NEXT MEETING OBJECTIVES

You have nothing to else to do for next time besides your GO.