

Serving Together

CONNECT TOGETHER:

10 minutes

Host Tip: If your group is unable to work through the entire session, we have recommended on question or activity with an asterisk (*) in each section of the study.

1. * Check the progress of your groups outreach project.
2. Last week we talked and prayed about being patient with others, speaking the truth in love, and forgiveness. How did that lesson impact your life this week? Did you see any answers to your prayer?
3. This week we are going to talk about serving the Lord by serving people in your church family. What do you think are the characteristics of a true servant?

GROW TOGETHER

40 minutes:

MEMORY VERSE

"By helping each other with your troubles, you truly obey the law of Christ"

Galatians 6:2 NCV

Watch the Session video now and fill in the blanks in the session one outline. Refer back to the outline during your discussion time.

Serving Together

For Key Aspects of Serving Together

Groups that serve together:

1. Make themselves _____ to serve.
2. Work as a _____.

*From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love as each part does its work. **Ephesians 4:16** NIV*

3. Think more about _____ than themselves.

*Forget yourselves long enough to lend a helping hand. **Philippians 2:4** MSG*

*Consider how we may sur one another toward love and good deeds. **Hebrews 10:24** NIV*

4. Do every task with equal _____.

*"If anyone wants to be first, he must be the very last and the servant of all." **Mark 8:35** NIV*

*He will not forget how hard you have worked for him and how you have shown your love to him by caring for other Christians. **Hebrews 6:10** NLT*

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Are you currently serving in a ministry at your church? If you are, tell the group about it.
2. Where do you find the most joy when it comes to helping others?
3. The true test of a servant heart is in how you react when you are treated like a servant. Have you ever been treated like a servant? How did it make you feel?

4. * Consider these roadblocks to ministry: time constraints, over-commitment, lack of interest, lack of confidence, lack of information. Which of these roadblocks presents the biggest obstacle for you? What can you do to avoid or overcome these barriers to ministry?

Host Tip: There will be no Share Together questions this week. We want you to focus the rest of your time on the Serve Together section of your study.

SERVE TOGETHER

25 minutes

What can you do together as a small group to serve your church?

1. Determine a need: What will your group do? Pastor Tim said, "There is nothing too small, too mundane, or too menial for a true servant." Make a list of practical needs your group can meet in your church. Here are a few examples to get you started:
 - Provide meals for a family in need.
 - Pray with a church member who is in the hospital.
 - Assist senior adults in your church with projects around the house.
 - Offer help to military families whose moms or dads are serving overseas.
 - Take on a maintenance project at church such as painting or re-carpeting an office or classroom.
 - Other: _____.
 - Other: _____.
 - Other: _____.

Now pray together and ask the Lord what He would have you do. After you have prayed, choose the need your group will meet.

- 2. Develop a plan: How will you meet the need? When your group has chosen your ministry project, determine your plan of action, identify the tasks, and divide up the responsibilities. If you did not choose a group ministry project coordinator last week, then select someone this week to fill this crucial role. The group ministry project coordinator will help move your plan from the talking stage to the action stage.

Task To Be Done?	Who Will Do It?

3. Decide on a date: When will you take action? Get out your calendars and choose a date when your group can serve together. Make it sooner than later.

WORSHIP TOGETHER

10 minutes

1. * Pray for your group ministry project. Commit your plans to the Lord and ask him to direct your steps Thank God in advance for what he is going to do through you as your group blesses someone in need.

2. Pray this prayer aloud together:

Father, we want to live our lives to please you.
We want to walk through each day depending on your power, looking for your hand,
And listening for the still, small voice of your guidance.
Use us for your kingdom's purposes.
Nudge us into great acts of faith.
Call us to a deeper level of trust.
Softener our hearts, O Lord,
So that we may live worthy of your calling
And fulfill your highest purposes for our lives.
We pray these things in the name of Jesus,
And for the glory of your kingdom.

Amen.

3. Break into subgroups and pray for one another's prayer request.

BEFORE YOU LEAVE

1. Start making plans for an evening meal or a picnic with your group to celebrate what God has done in your lives through this 6 weeks of community study. A party is an excellent opportunity for you to invite people who might be interested in joining your group. Talk about your celebration before you leave your meeting. Where will you have your party? When will you have it? Will it be a potluck, will someone barbecue, or will you call out for pizza? Divide up the responsibilities and then get ready to enjoy a great time of fellowship together. You deserve it!
2. There is just one week left in our 6 weeks of community study. Take a few minutes for an informal evaluation of your small group experience. What has been helpful to you? What has

challenged you? What would make this a better experience? how do you feel about continuing on as a group? Talk about these issues and address any concerns that might be raised.

3. If you plan to stay together as a group, spend some time talking about what your group will study next. There are plenty of life group (small group) resources out there.