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A publication of , the adult discipleship ministry of Triangle Community Church.

Talk together about the glory of God's kingdom. –Psalm 145:11
Love the Lord your God and **walk** in all his ways. –Joshua 22:5

Questions for Discussion & Reflection

- 1 Summarize what you observe about good works in the following verses:
Ephesians 2:8-9; Romans 3:28; Titus 3:4-5
- 2 Now, summarize what you observe about good works in these verses:
Ephesians 2:10; James 2:26; Titus 2:11-14 & 3:8, 14
- 3 Now, combine all your observations together in a biblically accurate way.
- 4 From Ephesians 4:11-16, how does the church benefit when all serve?
- 5 How easy/difficult is it for you to embrace interruptions?
How much do you think the problem is due to self-centeredness? to perfectionism? to materialism?
- 6 Are there any ways you're too focused on material/temporary things that you are limited in your availability to serve others? How?
- 7 Which truth is most likely to motivate you for faithful service:
Gratitude to God? Future rewards? Knowing your service matters?
- 8 In what ways are you serving God by serving your TCC family?
- 9 Are there other ways you could serve? What barriers do you face? What should you do about them?

Application-Challenge

"As followers of Christ it is our privilege to serve others. God has given each of us different talents, skills, and experiences that can be used to serve God and others. And, God is glorified when we use the gifts that He's given us to grow and bless others around us. Now is a great time to "Get in the Game" at TCC and make a difference by serving!" —Pastor Doug

Visit TCC.org/Ministry to learn about:

- 10
 - Children's Ministry and
 - Worship & Creative Arts...
 - ...and all of our other ministries!

- 1 Questions 1, 2 and 3 go together, but should be handled individually, in order. Your group should conclude from the verses associated with 1 that works achieve nothing in salvation.
- 2 Your group should conclude from the verses associated with 2 that saved people do good works.
- 3 In this step, your group is doing “systematic theology”—they are weaving together the various teachings related to salvation and good works, and observing that works cannot save a person (in fact, trying to earn one’s salvation is yet another sin against God), but once a person is saved, God intends for good works to flow from one’s new heart, thus testifying to the reality of one’s new birth.
- 4 God gave each believer spiritual gifts, which are to be used for mutual edification. Pastor-teachers are gifted to the church as those who equip all other believers for works of service. When each believer contributes his part, the whole body grows strong.
- 5 This question shifts gears. It comes from Pastor Doug’s observation that most of Jesus’ ministry resulted from interruptions, and therefore if we want to become like Jesus, we must be “interruptible”. (See **Sermon Summary: Three things are required to serve like Jesus...[1] be available.**) You *may* need to “prime the pump” a bit on this one, so be sure you’ve thought through your own answers to these questions—but don’t immediately jump in with yours. Give folks a bit of time to think.
- 6 This question also relates to that same section of Pastor Doug’s sermon. Again, since this question requires vulnerability, you may need to “prime the pump”, so be prepared with a brief story of one of your own failings.
- 7 This question relates to the section of Pastor Doug’s sermon “**Three things are required to serve like Jesus... [2] be grateful and [3] be faithful.** Again, be prepared to “prime the pump” your own answer.
- 8 This question is asking about current (actual) service. Some folks’ answer may be, “Hmmm, I’m not serving in any way...” That’s an important observation for folks to make. But sure not to minimize or excuse the significance of that observation. Be ready with a comment such as, “Well, things can change in the future.” (which, of course, is the subject of the next question).
- 9 There’s always **something** a person can do. Make sure folks don’t just fixate on the “up-front, visible” acts of service. Volunteers at TCC help with office administration. Others chaperone youth events. Others fix squeaky doors. Grapple realistically with the barriers question, as well as what can be done to overcome barriers. Remember: volunteering to serve in some capacity doesn’t obligate you to do that forever. It’s OK to try something out and then realize it’s not a good fit. What’s not OK is merely to be a passive consumer. Church is a family, and in well-functioning families everyone makes a contribution.
- 10 Close by asking someone to read Pastor Doug’s quote, then discuss the two ministries highlighted this week (Children’s Ministry and Worship & Creative Arts). Remind folks that every ministry needs “behind the scenes” help (eg. photocopying and assembling materials for children’s lessons and painting a stage prop) as well as “visible, up-front” roles (such as leading worship songs with the kids or playing the drum in the adult worship service).



PointMan

Men's Summertime Bible Study

- Genesis 1-11 "Creation, Sin, and the Nature of God"
- June 7—August 30
- Open to all men
- Just \$10 (for materials)
- Choose the time and format (face-to-face or virtual) that fits you best. For complete info...

Go to: tcc.org/men

Time is
RUNNING OUT!



Sermon Summary

As an entertainer, Elvis Presley was an enormous success—but as a man, he was unfulfilled and unhappy. When he died of obesity and drug dependency at 42, his wife, Priscilla, said this about her late husband: *“Elvis never came to terms with who he was meant to be or what his purpose in life was... That agonizing desire was always with him and he knew he wasn’t fulfilling it. So he’d go on stage and he wouldn’t have to think about it.”* So sad. God wants every Christian to know and fulfill his purpose in life (Ephesians 2:10). Christians are shaped to serve others (1 Peter 4:10), and any time you use your talents, your abilities, your experiences to help someone else, you’re ministering—and that makes you a minister. At TCC, we believe every member is a minister. You were created for that purpose.

God has given us the perfect model of a servant in the person of his Son Jesus Christ (Matthew 20:26-28). God has uniquely shaped each one of us. Our **“shape”** is a unique combination of our **S**piritual gifts, **H**ear, **A**bilities, **P**ersonality, and our **E**xperiences. Today we’re going to learn how to serve like Jesus. And to serve like Jesus, we must share Jesus’ attitude toward service. **Three things are required to serve like Jesus:** We need to **[1] be available**. Most of Jesus’ ministry and most of the miracles performed occurred as a result of interruptions (Matthew 20:30-32). The same is true for us (Proverbs 3:28). John Wesley said: “Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, by all the ways you can, in all the places you can, and at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as you can.” That is a recipe for greatness! But to do that, you must be available.

What are some barriers to availability? The first is **self-centeredness** (Philippians 2:4). **Perfectionism** also keeps others from ministering (Ecclesiastes 11:4). Finally, **materialism** stops many of us (Luke 16:13). Jesus didn’t say, “You should not serve both God and money.” He said, “You cannot serve both God and money.” You’ve got to decide whether you want to be rich, or used and blessed of God. Are you going to be a kingdom-builder, or a wealth-builder?

If you are going to serve like Jesus, you also must **[2] be grateful** (Psalm 100:2) and **[3] be faithful** (John 17:4; 1 Corinthians 4:2). We should be grateful for all that God has done for us as well as for the rewards he promises for the future. What we do here on earth really matters (1 Corinthians 15:58; Mark 9:41). In God’s eyes, no faithful service is insignificant. Several years ago two teenage boys came to a church service much like this, but they couldn’t find a seat so they turned to leave when an usher said, *“Hey boys, don’t leave, I’ll find you a seat.”* That night both of those young men placed their faith in Jesus Christ. One of them was someone you have heard of. His name is Billy Graham.

There are always more needs to be met than there are people who are willing to come down out of the stands and get into the game. God didn’t bring you here just to sit in the stands and cheer. He brought you here to serve (Hebrews 6:10). If everyone who calls Triangle Community Church their home began to serve here, if we would all get in the game, what kind of enormous, spiritual, nuclear reaction would we see in the Triangle and beyond? I think it would be phenomenal!

Talking To God About This Week’s Message

“Heavenly Father, today I want to be a ‘doer’ of the Word, and not just a ‘hearer’. Amen.”

Talking To Others About This Week’s Message

If a neighbor or friend at work asks you, *“What kind of stuff do they talk about at your church?”*, how would you summarize the most important elements of this week’s sermon and the key lessons you intend to apply to your life? Can you explain it in **plain language** anyone could understand?

Digging Deeper in Your Daily Quiet Time

"Five Question Bible Study" (see page below) *is a simple way to study any passage. We can use it to learn how to live the Christ-controlled life...*

Monday—Read Romans 8:5 & Galatians 5:16. What battle does **every** Christian face?

Tuesday—Read Galatians 3:1-5. What approach to the Christian life is **absolutely foolish**?

Wednesday—Read Romans 8:6-15. List all of the things the Spirit must do in and for us.

Thursday—Read Galatians 5:16-25. List all of the things the Spirit must do in and for us.

Friday—Read Ephesians 4:30. What must we **never** do to the Spirit of God living within us?

Saturday—***In preparation for worshipping the risen Lord with your church family,***
study Ephesians 2:10.

Bible Text: _____

Date: _____



What idea particularly strikes me from this text? [Note in which verse(s) it is found.]



What question does this text raise in my mind—and how would **this text** answer it?



What about Jesus Christ—his character and/or his redemption—relates to this text?



What action must I take as a result of this text? Be concrete and specific.



With whom will I share what I learned from this text? [and what was their response?]