



A CALL TO SERVICE

"That's why I now see clearly that, if there is any path at all on which I can approach You, it must lead through the very middle of my ordinary daily life."

Karl Rahner

What is service?

Service is a way of offering resources, time, treasure, influence, and expertise for the care, protection, justice, and nurture of others. Acts of service give hands to the second greatest commandment: "Love your neighbor as yourself."

What does scripture say about the sabbath?

Isaiah 58:6-7 (MSG)

"This is the kind of fast day I'm after:
to break the chains of injustice,
get rid of exploitation in the workplace,
free the oppressed,
cancel debts.

What I'm interested in seeing you do is:
sharing your food with the hungry,
inviting the homeless poor into your homes,
putting clothes on the shivering ill-clad,
being available to your own families.

John 12:26 If anyone serves me, he must follow me; and where I am, there will my servant be also. If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him.

Matthew 22:37-39 And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. 38 This is the great and first commandment. 39 And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.



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Digging Deeper into Service

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. What is it like to be loved by someone as he or she loves himself or herself?
2. Do you like to be served or to serve? How does this affect the way you live?
3. When do you live out of an entitlement mentality rather than love your neighbor?

SPIRITUAL EXERCISES

1. Every morning for the next two weeks, ask your spouse, roommate, or colleague, "What can I do for you today?" Then do it. Talk to God about what this is like for you. What do you see about yourself?
2. Develop a yearly practice of involving yourself in one intentional service, mission, or relief project. Consider which type of project speaks to some of the longings of your own heart.
3. Divide a paper into three columns. Above one column write, "For Me." Above the second write, "For Others." Above the third column write, "For God." Review the past week or month. Jot down in each column the things you have bought and done for yourself, others, and God. What does this inventory reveal about your life? Take time to read Luke 23. Gaze at Jesus on the cross. What has God given because he loves you? How would you like to see the answers in your columns change over the next months? Listen to your longings and God's promptings.
4. Spend some time meditating on the story of the good Samaritan found in Luke 10:25-37. Become quiet and ask the Lord to speak to you. Give your imagination to God. Read the story slowly and aloud, savoring the words. What stood out to you? Read the passage a second time, imagining you are the Levite. What are your concerns? Why are you in a hurry? Then put yourself in the place of the priest. What are your concerns? Why do you pass by? Imagine you are the Samaritan. Why do you stop to help? How do you feel about incurring all



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the expenses for another's care? Who of these three characters do you tend to be like? Who in your life receives your care: family? Friends? Who else?

5. Sign on to set up or take down an event or help out at church behind the scenes. This part of event planning is the least sought after. What is it like for you to do a simple task that doesn't require your skill or expertise? What does this tell you about your acts of service?
6. Ask those who know you to give you their take on what your spiritual gifts are. Plan a way of using your gifts to benefit others in the next week and month.
7. Get to know some missionaries or a faith-based organization. Find out what they need. Ask them how you could serve. Do something that helps them help others.

PLACES TO SERVE

Are you looking for places to serve in the Gunnison Valley? You can check out these resources to find out how to get plugged in:

1. **St. Mary's Garage** - <https://www.stmarysgarage.org/volunteer>
2. **OBJC Food Bank** (home@ohbejoyfulchurch.org)
3. **Six Points** - <https://sixpointsgunnison.org/volunteers/>
4. **Oh Be Joyful Church** on Sunday mornings (home@ohbejoyfulchurch.org)
 - a. Greeter
 - b. Usher
 - c. Coffee
 - d. Children
5. **Living Journeys** - <https://livingjourneys.org/>
6. **Adaptative Sports Center** - <https://www.adaptivesports.org/our-team/volunteer>
7. **Tough Enough to Wear Pink** - <https://gunnisonstetwp.com/>
8. **Community Foundation of Gunnison Valley** - <https://cfgv.org/volunteer/>

(Adele Ahlberg Calhoun, *Spiritual Disciplines Handbook: Practices that Transform Us*, IVP Books, Downers Grove, IL, 2015, p.167-169.)