

DAY 4

If someone gave you a present, you wouldn't just let it sit there on the table. No way! You'd tear right into that paper, open up the box, and see what's inside.

Remember what Peter said?

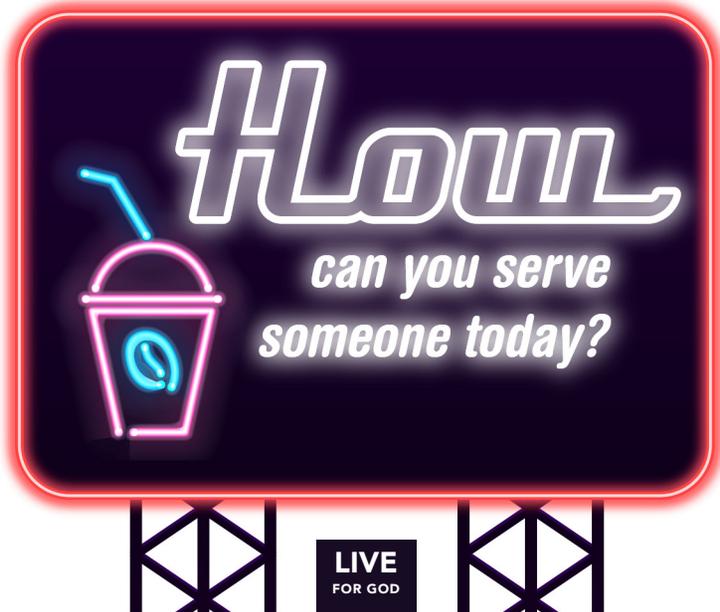
EACH OF YOU HAS RECEIVED A GIFT IN ORDER TO SERVE OTHERS. (1 PETER 4:10, NIRV)

"Each of you"—if you've put your faith in Jesus, then that includes you, too!

So what are you going to do with your gift? Are you going to let it sit there, or are you going to open it up and use it? And what, exactly, did Peter mean when he was talking about gifts?

God made you with skills and talents for sure. But there are other gifts from the Spirit, too. Not gymnastics or piano, but gifts like knowledge, encouragement, and faith. Those are gifts that we can use to benefit others—not just ourselves.

There are opportunities to serve all around you, every day. So open up your gift. Don't be afraid to use the way God uniquely made you to give someone else a helping hand.



DAY 1

READ 1 PETER 4:10-11

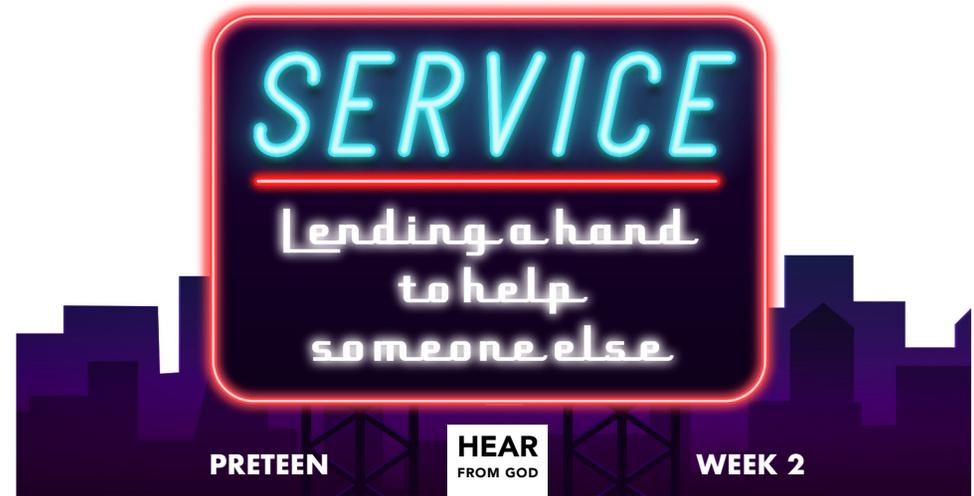
When you get up in the morning, what do you do before you leave for school?

- Hit snooze
- Brush your teeth
- Head out the door
- What did we miss? _____

There's something else we tend to do—without even realizing it. We pick up a mirror. Okay, maybe we don't *literally* do that. But we sure do act like it. If we don't pay attention, we can find ourselves looking only at ourselves—at what we want. It's like we're staring into a mirror instead of seeing what's really happening around us.

When Peter wrote 1 Peter (which was originally a letter), he was talking to a group of believers who were going through some tough times. They certainly had their own stuff to deal with. But look at Paul's advice in verse 10. In other words, God has given each of us certain gifts—things that make us unique and special. When we put our faith in Jesus, God's Spirit helps us put those good gifts to use. Our gifts can help us serve people.

It's tough to serve when you're looking at a mirror all day. Instead, let's put the mirror down. Let's look through different lens and be on the lookout for what others might need.



DAY 2

You know what would make serving a lot easier? If everyone walked around with a sign saying what they needed.

Sometimes it can be obvious—like when you pull up to the house after going to the grocery store, and you know your mom could use a hand bringing the bags inside.

But sometimes it's harder to figure out what you can do to help. The first step in serving someone is knowing what's wrong. But you can't always see what people need on the outside.



What about you?

What would your sign say?

What's underneath the surface?

What do you need that other people might not be able to see?

Talk to God about that. Tell Him what you need. Remember, He's with you always. He can give you the strength and peace you need as you walk through the tough stuff in life. Don't forget to tell someone else, too—so others can see how they might be able to serve you.



PRAY
TO GOD



DAY 3

When you hang out with your friends, what do you talk about?

Do you joke around and try to make each other laugh?

Do you talk about things you both like—whether it's sports or music or movies?

Those are all great things to do with your friends. But what about the more serious stuff? Do you also tell each other when something tough is going on? Hopefully you can be honest and let them in beneath the surface sometimes.

Have you ever tried asking your friend what you could do to help them? This is a great way to serve!

IF IT SEEMS LIKE IT WOULD BE HARD TO COME UP WITH THE WORDS TO DO THAT, HERE ARE SOME EXAMPLES.

How are you doing right now? I really want to know.

How are things going with your family?

Are you dealing with anything that's stressing you out?

What can I do to help?

I'm here for you.

You can tell me anything.

I'd love to be able to pray for you.

Read back through those lines and imagine what it would be like if someone else said them to you. How would you feel?

Even just asking the questions can make someone feel so good and so valuable. Maybe just being a friend who's willing to listen could be one of the best ways you could possibly serve them.

TALK
ABOUT GOD