





# **SERVANT**

Resources for Servant Events

# **STUDIES**



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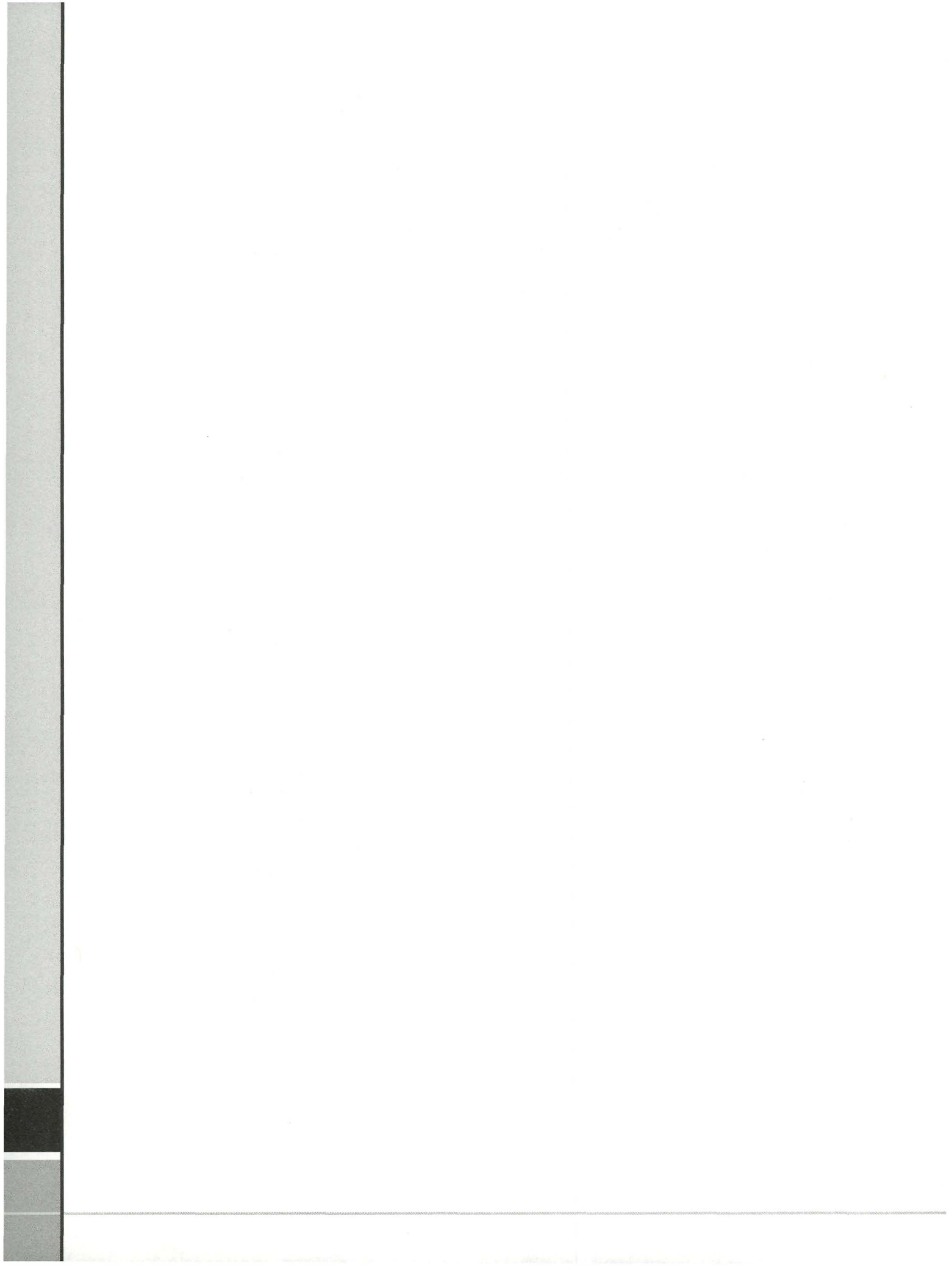
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# INTRODUCTION

For over twenty-five years, young people have been serving in the name of Christ through Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod Servant Events. The settings for this service have been many and varied: mountain camps and country churches, urban schools and inner city housing. The service has covered the gamut from building wheelchair ramps to creating camp trails, from roofing houses to hurricane cleanup.

Yet, beyond the different settings and tasks, one constant has been a part of these events: the opportunity to gather around the Word through Bible study, devotion, worship, and prayer. May this collection of *Servant Studies* provide young people the opportunity to serve in Christ's name as they gather around God's Word as His servants.

Our thanks to these dedicated LCMS servants who as Bible-study authors have given young people the opportunity to study God's Word at LCMS Servant Events:

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## *Key to music resources used in Servant Studies:*

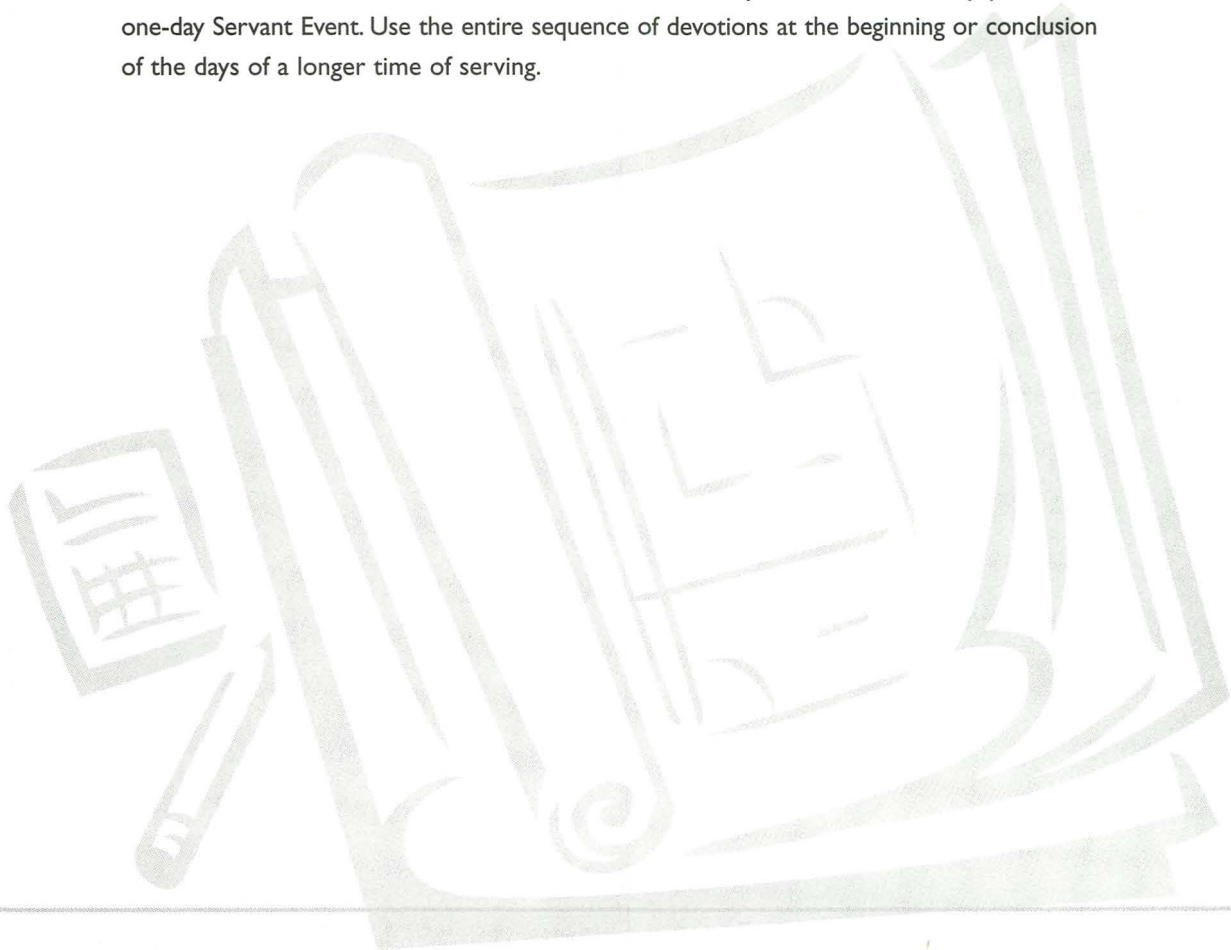
LSB = Lutheran Service Book; LW = Lutheran Worship; HS98 = Hymnal Supplement 98; TLH = The Lutheran Hymnal; AGPS = All God's People Sing; SS = Singing Saints





# SERVANT EVENT DEVOTIONS

The two devotional sequences that follow provide young people with a brief opportunity to reflect on and discuss their service. The devotions may be used individually prior to a one-day Servant Event. Use the entire sequence of devotions at the beginning or conclusion of the days of a longer time of serving.



# I WANT TO BE LIKE YOU!

## DEVOTION:

### SERVING WITH ENCOURAGEMENT—LIKE BARNABAS

#### *Opening*

Distribute copies of the handout, divide group into two, and read responsively. Note that this same prayer handout will be used for this sequence of devotions.

We live our lives as servants in the name of the Father,

*Who made us and keeps us alive.*

We live our lives as servants in the name of Jesus,

*Who sacrificed His life for us and now lives for us.*

We live our lives as servants in the name of the Holy Spirit,

*Who makes us grow in faith and obedience to be like Jesus.*

#### *A Time to Memorize a Bible Verse*

Christ died for us, Christ rose for us, Christ reigns in power for us, Christ prays for us! — Romans 8:34 (J. B. Phillips paraphrase)

#### *A Situation for Reflection*

Joel was a student at a Concordia University. He had started having a rough time meeting all of the expectations his instructors and friends had of him. Perhaps the hardest part was meeting his own expectations. One day when he was feeling quite depressed, he sought out one of the faculty members in order to share his anxieties and frustrations and to get some help and encouragement. The instructor listened well and gave some helpful words of encouragement, but something special happened a few weeks later: Joel found himself sitting next to the same instructor in a worship service where the worshipers were instructed to commune each other. When the instructor served the Lord's Supper to Joel, the instructor said, "Joel, this is what God thinks of you. Here is His Son's body and blood for you." For the rest of the service, Joel could only cry tears of joy.



*Tell of a time when you felt discouraged about something in your life.*



*Who was an encourager for you? How did that person give you encouragement?*



*How is the memory verse above a word of encouragement for you?*



*How can you be an encourager to people you are with today—both fellow servants and those you are serving?*

As you go through your day of serving the Lord, be an encourager to the people you serve and to those serving with you. Do it because God has told you what He thinks of you with His Son, Jesus Christ.

Can you repeat the memory verse? Say it as a group.

*Closing*

Sing “You Are My Own” (AGPS 270; SS 37). [Otherwise, have the males in your group read the first verse and refrain, the females read the second verse and refrain, and everyone read the third verse and refrain.]

Pray responsively in the same two groups as for the opening reading.

O Lord, we don't know exactly what will happen today,

*But we place ourselves and our lives in Your hands.*

When we see opportunities to serve,

*Give us the encouragement we need to serve.*

When we aren't sure of what we are doing,

*Give us the wisdom to ask for instructions.*

When we are afraid of failure,

*Give us the courage to go ahead and try anyway, trusting in Your forgiveness.*

When we are afraid of rejection,

*Remind us that you always love us more than anyone else.*

Go and serve the Lord with His encouraging forgiveness.

*We want to be like You, Lord!*

You may choose to collect the prayer handouts to use for next time.

**Serving with Encouragement—Like Barnabas***Opening*

We live our lives as servants in the name of the Father,

*Who made us and keeps us alive.*

We live our lives as servants in the name of Jesus,

*Who sacrificed His life for us and now lives for us.*

We live our lives as servants in the name of the Holy Spirit,

*Who makes us grow in faith and obedience to be like Jesus.*

*Closing*

O Lord, we don't know exactly what will happen today,

*But we place ourselves and our lives in Your hands.*

When we see opportunities to serve,

*Give us the encouragement we need to serve.*

When we aren't sure of what we are doing,

*Give us the wisdom to ask for instructions.*

When we are afraid of failure,

*Give us the courage to go ahead and try anyway, trusting in Your forgiveness.*

When we are afraid of rejection,

*Remind us that You always love us more than anyone else.*

Go and serve the Lord with His encouraging forgiveness.

*We want to be like You, Lord! Amen.*

## Devotion: Serving with Joyful Witness—Like the Blind Man

### Opening

Distribute copies of the prayer handout for this devotion sequence. Divide into two groups, and read responsively.

We live our lives as servants in the name of the Father,  
*Who made us and keeps us alive.*

We live our lives as servants in the name of Jesus,  
*Who sacrificed His life for us and now lives for us.*

We live our lives as servants in the name of the Holy Spirit,  
*Who makes us grow in faith and obedience to be like Jesus.*

### A Time to Memorize a Bible Verse


One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see! — John 9:25

### A Situation for Reflection

Travis wasn't raised by Christian parents, but when someone told him about Jesus, that changed his life dramatically. All Travis could do now was live his life for the One who had died for him and now lives for him. One of the things Travis did was tell others about Jesus and what he knew about Him. Travis loved running in track and cross-country events, and, as a servant of the Lord, Travis even made his running an opportunity to tell others about Jesus. He would take along a portable tape player and some tapes with his favorite Christian songs to the track meets and play his music while he was going through his warm-up exercises. People would hear the music and words to the music, and, if anyone asked questions, Travis was more than ready to tell them what he could about Jesus.

 Do you know anybody like Travis?

 Would you like to be more like Travis? Why or why not?

 The memory verse above reminds us that we don't need to be experts about God or the Bible in order to share our Lord Jesus. Share what you consider to be the three most important things God has done for you.

Can you repeat the memory verse? Say it as a group.

### Closing

Sing "Amazing Grace" (LSB 744; LW 509; AGPS 63; SS 2). Pray responsively in the same two groups as for the opening reading.

O Lord, we don't know exactly what will happen today,  
*but we place ourselves and our lives in Your hands.*

When we see opportunities to serve,  
*give us the encouragement we need to serve.*

When we aren't sure of what we are doing,  
*give us the wisdom to ask for instructions.*

When we are afraid of failure,

*give us the courage to go ahead and try anyway, trusting in Your forgiveness.*

When we are afraid of rejection,

*remind us that You always love us more than anyone else.*

Go and serve the Lord, reflecting His love with your words and life.

*We want to be like You, Lord!*

Collect the prayer handouts to use again next time.

## **Devotion: Serving with Joyful Perseverance—Like Habakkuk**

### *Opening*

Distribute copies of the prayer handout for this devotional sequence. Divide into two groups, and read responsively.

We live our lives as servants in the name of the Father,

*Who made us and keeps us alive.*

We live our lives as servants in the name of Jesus,

*Who sacrificed His life for us and now lives for us.*

We live our lives as servants in the name of the Holy Spirit,

*Who makes us grow in faith and obedience to be like Jesus.*

### *A Time to Memorize a Bible Verse*

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose. — Romans 8:28

### *A Situation for Reflection*

Jordan High School of Durham, North Carolina, had an awful losing streak in high school football. For four years they never won a game! That was a total of thirty-seven games!

How would you have felt if you had been a student at that high school?

(Show your choice by a show of hands, and have two or three explain their answer.)

angry    hopeless    depressed    hopeful    could care less/no different

How many football games would you have attended?

(Show your choice by a show of hands.)

none of them                      a few home games                      most or all of the home games

How do you think you would have felt as a member of that football team?

(Show your choice by a show of hands.)

angry    hopeless    depressed    hopeful    could care less/no different

The Jordan High School team finally did win a game . . . 36-14. In order to motivate the team, the coach not only gave the regular pep talk, he also said he would shave his head into a Mohawk when the team won a game. The motivation worked!

What motivation does today's memory verse give for playing the game of life even when things look hopeless? What is the ultimate good that is meant here?

As you go through your day of serving the Lord, remember the promise in today's Bible verse, especially when something hopeless happens. Remember that no matter what, you've been promised a place in heaven—the final victory guaranteed by Jesus.

Can you repeat the memory verse? Say it as a group.

### *Closing*

Sing "Jesus in the Morning" using these verses:

Jesus, Jesus, Jesus in the morning, Jesus at the noontime,  
Jesus, Jesus, Jesus when the sun goes down.

He's with me, He's with me, He's with me in the morning, He's with me at the noontime,  
He's with me, He's with me, He's with me when the sun goes down.

Pray responsively in the same two groups as for the opening reading.

O Lord, we don't know exactly what will happen today,

*But we place ourselves and our lives in Your hands.*

When we see opportunities to serve,

*Give us the encouragement we need to serve.*

When we aren't sure of what we are doing,

*Give us the wisdom to ask for instructions.*

When we are afraid of failure,

*Give us the courage to go ahead and try anyway, trusting in Your forgiveness.*

When we are afraid of rejection,

*Remind us that You always love us more than anyone else.*

Go and serve the Lord with the gift of God's loving presence.

*We want to be like You, Lord!*

Collect the prayer handouts to reuse next time.

## **Devotion: Serving with Forgiveness—Like Hosea**

### *Opening*

Distribute copies of the prayer handout. Divide the group, and read responsively.

We live our lives as servants in the name of the Father,

*Who made us and keeps us alive.*

We live our lives as servants in the name of Jesus,

*Who sacrificed His life for us and now lives for us.*

We live our lives as servants in the name of the Holy Spirit,

*Who makes us grow in faith and obedience to be like Jesus.*

### *A Time to Memorize a Bible Verse*

But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. — Romans 5:8

## Devotion: Serving with Forgiveness—Like Hosea

### Opening

Distribute copies of the prayer handout. Divide the group, and read responsively.

We live our lives as servants in the name of the Father,

*Who made us and keeps us alive..*

We live our lives as servants in the name of Jesus,

*Who sacrificed His life for us and now lives for us.*

We live our lives as servants in the name of the Holy Spirit,




*Who makes us grow in faith and obedience to be like Jesus.*

### A Time to Memorize a Bible Verse

But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. — Romans 5:8

### A Situation for Reflection

Jim and Shelly had known each other since they were six years old. When they turned sixteen, their relationship turned into more than just a good friendship. They became boyfriend and girlfriend. But their relationship was not an easy one. Shelly had a difficult time being faithful to Jim. From time to time, she would deliberately ignore Jim and flirt with other guys—even being very promiscuous with them. One guy Shelly dated even beat her up when she didn't do what he wanted. After that incident, Shelly went back to Jim because she knew that he really cared about her. But then Shelly saw another guy who looked like more fun than Jim, and once again she ignored Jim. But no matter what Shelly did, Jim was always concerned for her and ready to take her back whenever she wanted him again.

-  If you were Jim, how many times would you forgive Shelly? When would you stop taking her back?
-  How is the relationship between Jim and Shelly like the relationship between the Lord and us?
-  How many times has our Lord forgiven you for loving something or someone else more than Him?

As you go through your day of serving the Lord, deliberately forgive and love those who aren't all that lovable because of who they are or what they do. Do it because that is what God the Father does with you.

Can you repeat the memory verse? Say it as a group.

### Closing

Pray responsively in the same two groups as for the opening reading.

O Lord, we don't know exactly what will happen today,

*But we place ourselves and our lives in Your hands.*

When we see opportunities to serve,

Give us the encouragement we need to serve.  
 When we aren't sure of what we are doing,  
 Give us the wisdom to ask for instructions.  
 When we are afraid of failure,  
 Give us the courage to go ahead and try anyway, trusting in Your forgiveness.  
 When we are afraid of rejection,  
 Remind us that You always love us more than anyone else.  
 Go and serve the Lord with the gift of God's loving presence.  
 We want to be like You, Lord!

Collect prayer handouts for reuse.

## Devotion: Serving Despite the Risks—Like Rahab

### Opening

Distribute copies of the prayer handout. Divide into two groups, and read responsively.







We live our lives as servants in the name of the Father,  
 Who made us and keeps us alive.  
 We live our lives as servants in the name of Jesus,  
 Who sacrificed His life for us and now lives for us.  
 We live our lives as servants in the name of the Holy Spirit,  
 Who makes us grow in faith and obedience to be like Jesus.

### A Time to Memorize a Bible Verse

[Jesus said,] "I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full." — John 10:10

### A Situation for Reflection

Mandy and Cath were spending an afternoon together at the mall. They had been having fun enjoying each other's company and looking at clothes. Mandy was startled when Cath said, "Hey! I like these!" and quickly stuffed a pair of earrings into a pocket. Mandy hadn't seen Cath do anything like that before. She wasn't sure what to say or to do.

-  What risks does Mandy take if she confronts Cath?
-  What risks does Mandy take if she reports Cath to a store clerk or some other adult?
-  What risks does Mandy take if she stays quiet?
-  What would you say and/or do if you were Mandy? Why?
-  What example from the Bible can you use to explain why you'd do what you'd do?
-  What risks are you willing to take for the Lord? (Show your choice by a show of hands.)

I'd die for the Lord.	I'd take some risks for the Lord.
I'd try to avoid the risks.	I would take risks if I was forced to.
I wouldn't take any risks.	