

Small Group 2021 Fall Session

**A Life of Service**

*“It is God himself who has made us what we are and given us new lives from Christ Jesus; and long ages ago he planned that we should **spend these lives in helping others.**”*

*Ephesians 2:10 (TLB)*

*“Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility **value others above yourselves**, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.”*

*Philippians 2:3-4 (NIV)*

*“As far as I am concerned, the **greatest suffering is to feel alone, unwanted, unloved.** The greatest suffering is also having no one, forgetting what an intimate, truly human relationship is, not knowing what it means to be loved, not having a family or friends.”*

*Mother Teresa*

**Part 1: A Life of Service**

**Serve God by Serving Others**

By Rick Warren

God did not put you on Earth just to live for yourself. He wants you to make the world a better place!

Every time I hear somebody say, “I live for the weekends,” I want to say, “Then why should God keep you alive?” If you’re not fulfilling your purpose, you’re missing the whole point of life.

Ephesians 2:10 says, “God . . . has made us what we are and given us new lives from Christ Jesus; and long ages ago he planned that we should spend these lives in helping others”.

There’s a word for this: ministry. **Every Christian is a minister.** Not every Christian is a pastor, but every Christian is to be a minister. That means you use your talents and gifts to make a contribution in life, to be a giver, not a taker.

The Bible uses these kinds of phrases 58 times: “Love one another.” “Care for one another.” “Pray for one another.” “Encourage one another.” “Help one another.” “Counsel one another.” “Support one another.” And on and on the list goes. It is the mutual ministry of every believer in the family of God to every other believer in the family of God. That’s the way God meant for it to be.

The truth is, serving God by serving others is not always easy. Sometimes you’re going to get discouraged. So, what do you do when you start to get discouraged? You remember two things.

First, you remember that **you’re going to receive a reward that’s going to go on for eternity.** The Bible says that God “will not forget how hard you have worked for him and how you have shown your love to him by caring for other believers” (Hebrews 6:10 NLT). You’re going to be rewarded in heaven.

Second, you remember that God uses every little thing. **Nothing is insignificant when you serve God.** None of it is in vain. *“Keep busy always in your work for the Lord, since you know that nothing you do in the Lord’s service is ever useless”* (1 Corinthians 15:58 GNT).

- Watch “Anquan Boldin: The Importance of Serving Others.” This is a video on how Anquan Boldin made it into the NFL despite a difficult childhood involving poverty and realized he was being called to give back to those who were less fortunate:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=we8CYMAgl5k>

- Watch “Loving God and Serving Others.” This is a video on how one man's faith inspired him to leave the real estate industry and serve the homeless:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-\\_0WYVveu3s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-_0WYVveu3s)

## Part 2: Reflection Questions

- Rick Warren states that *“Every Christian is a minister.”* Do you agree with this statement? If so, what might this mean for us practically speaking?
- Anquan Boldin states *“The more I fell in love with Jesus, the more I looked for opportunities to serve people.”* Why might a closer relationship with Jesus prompt us to serve others?
- Alan Grah, CEO of Mobile Loaves and Fishes, believes that *“in heaven we will owe a great debt of gratitude to the poor because they brought us closer to God.”* Do you believe this might be true?

## Part 3: Prayer Requests

Close the meeting with any prayer requests.