**Module 14:** **Old Testament Examples of What it Means to Serve**

**Psalm 144:** [**1**](https://www.christianity.com/bible/bible.php?q=Psalm+144%3A1&ver=niv)  Praise be to the Lord my Rock, who trains my hands for war, my fingers for battle. [**2**](https://www.christianity.com/bible/bible.php?q=Psalm+144%3A2&ver=niv)  He is my loving God and my fortress, my stronghold and my deliverer, my shield, in whom I take refuge, who subdues peoples under me.

**Ecclesiastes 3:**[**8**](https://www.christianity.com/bible/bible.php?q=Ecclesiastes+3%3A8&ver=niv)  a time to love and a time to hate, a time for war and a time for peace

**Numbers 1:** [**3**](https://www.christianity.com/bible/bible.php?q=Numbers+1%3A3&ver=niv)  You and Aaron are to count according to their divisions all the men in Israel who are twenty years old or more and able to serve in the army.

**Numbers 1:** [**45**](https://www.christianity.com/bible/bible.php?q=Numbers+1%3A45&ver=niv)  All the Israelites twenty years old or more who were able to serve in Israel's army were counted according to their families.

**Joshua 4:** [**13**](https://www.christianity.com/bible/bible.php?q=Joshua+4%3A13&ver=niv)  About forty thousand armed for battle crossed over before the Lord to the plains of Jericho for war.

[**1 Samuel 12:24**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Samuel+12%3A24&version=ESV)

Only fear the Lord and serve him faithfully with all your heart. For consider what great things he has done for you.

[**Psalm 2:11**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm+2%3A11&version=ESV)

Serve the Lord with fear, and rejoice with trembling.

[**Joshua 22:5**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Joshua+22%3A5&version=ESV)

Only be very careful to observe the commandment and the law that Moses the servant of the Lord commanded you, to love the Lord your God, and to walk in all his ways and to keep his commandments and to cling to him and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul.”

[**Joshua 24:15**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Joshua+24%3A15&version=ESV)

And if it is evil in your eyes to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your fathers served in the region beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.”

[**Deuteronomy 10:12-13**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Deuteronomy+10%3A12-13&version=ESV)

“And now, Israel, what does the Lord your God require of you, but to fear the Lord your God, to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and to keep the commandments and statutes of the Lord, which I am commanding you today for your good?

[**Psalm 91:1-16**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm+91%3A1-16&version=ESV)

He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say to the Lord, “My refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust.” For he will deliver you from the snare of the fowler and from the deadly pestilence. He will cover you with his pinions, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness is a shield and buckler. You will not fear the terror of the night, nor the arrow that flies by day,

[**Deuteronomy 13:4**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Deuteronomy+13%3A4&version=ESV)

You shall walk after the Lord your God and fear him and keep his commandments and obey his voice, and you shall serve him and hold fast to him.

[**2 Chronicles 15:7**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+Chronicles+15%3A7&version=ESV)

But you, take courage! Do not let your hands be weak, for your work shall be rewarded.”

[**Deuteronomy 15:11**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Deuteronomy+15%3A11&version=ESV)

For there will never cease to be poor in the land. Therefore I command you, ‘You shall open wide your hand to your brother, to the needy and to the poor, in your land.’

[**Psalm 34:22**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm+34%3A22&version=ESV)

The Lord redeems the life of his servants; none of those who take refuge in him will be condemned.

**[Proverbs 28:27](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Proverbs+28%3A27&version=ESV)**

Whoever gives to the poor will not want, but he who hides his eyes will get many a curse.

[**Proverbs 14:21**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Proverbs+14%3A21&version=ESV)

Whoever despises his neighbor is a sinner, but blessed is he who is generous to the poor.

[**Proverbs 11:25**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Proverbs+11%3A25&version=ESV)

Whoever brings blessing will be enriched, and one who waters will himself be watered.

[**Proverbs 19:17**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Proverbs+19%3A17&version=ESV)

Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will repay him for his deed.

[**Proverbs 22:9**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Proverbs+22%3A9&version=ESV)

Whoever has a bountiful eye will be blessed, for he shares his bread with the poor.

**Let’s break it down. What does serving mean? Why did we choose to serve our country, community, family and others?**

**Did you serve out of fear, compulsion, obligation, patriotism or was there a calling? Did you serve to secure safety, freedom and security for those at home? Perhaps it was a combination of many of these. Or maybe it was for the paycheck.**

**Is serving God important? How can we serve Him?**

Yes, it is important to us as our response to Him.   
  
God did not create us for the purpose of serving Him, as Paul stated when telling the Greeks in Athens about God when he said, "nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything" ([Acts 17:25](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Acts%2017.25)). God created us because He wanted to.

It was for His great pleasure.  
  
Our response to Him creating us should be to serve Him. And serving Him includes serving others. In what is commonly called the Upper Room Discourse, Jesus used His example of washing His disciples' feet to show that we should engage in service to others. He said, "If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you. Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them" ([John 13:14](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/John%2013.14)-17). Jesus was telling His disciples that service is important to God. Jesus also stated elsewhere that the order of importance in God's kingdom is not the same as man thinks. He said, in [Mark 9:35](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Mark%209.35), "…If anyone would be first, he must be last of all and servant of all." Service is important to God, so it should be important to us.  
  
In providing for His church, God gave us gifts—not for our own uplifting, but for building up the church. Paul, in teaching the Corinthians about spiritual gifts, wrote "To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good" ([1 Corinthians 12:7](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/1%20Cor%2012.7)). Peter emphasized this in [1 Peter 4:10](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/1%20Pet%204.10)-11, "As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen." God has not only created us because He wanted to but He has equipped us to advance according to His standards. Improving our own standing is not what He desires, but we should work for the betterment of others.  
  
So this raises the question of how serving God translates into serving other people. If we are to serve God, we must know and follow His standards. God's standard of greatness is not the same as ours. His standard, that of love, puts others first ([1 Corinthians 13](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/1%20Cor%2013)), so we should put others first in order to follow His standards. In serving God, we will serve other people.