



RESHAPE: “Shaped for Ministry (Serving)”

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This Study Guide provides a summarised study with additional discussion questions based on the scriptures mentioned in the sermon.

Connect:

1. Watch “**Kindness Ted Talk**” (Shawn Achor, Harvard Divinity Sch.)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GXY_kBVq1M

Engage:

“And He (Jesus) gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ-”

Ephesians 4:11-12

2. **Ministry** – *diakonia* (Greek) ‘attend, as a servant’ (Luke 10:40, Martha frustrated – told Jesus Mary had left her to SERVE (*diakonia*) alone.)
3. **Building up** - *oikodomē* (Greek) ‘to architect a building, solid structure’. Edifice, imposing structure from edify (to build up, knowledge).

Framework:

4. Why is serving vital for your spiritual life (Write 3 good reasons below)?
 1. _____
 2. _____
 3. _____
5. **5 Biblical Reasons why serving is vital for your spiritual life:**
 - ⇒ **Serving Shapes Community “working together” in Ministry**
 - * Read Philippians 2:1-2
 - * **Serving** is a critical part of a spiritual, “ONE ANOTHER” focused Team
 - * **Serving** forces us to learn about others (especially our differences) and to love them (God may put you with someone difficult!)
 - * **Serving** is showing Love to ONE ANOTHER
 - * 59 Commands including Galatians 5:13; “*Serve one another in Love*”
 - ⇒ **Created and Gifted by the Holy Spirit to Serve others:**
 - * Read Ephesians 2:10
 - * Every time we serve, we minister to someone else
 - * **Serving** is discipleship (influencing others as Christ did)
 - * Before we are born, God has planned a life of service for us
 - * People may be miserable because they miss out on what the *point of life* is
 - * As you serve others, your own needs are met

- * **As you give your life away, you find it**
- * If you're not **servicing**, you miss out on the reason you are created.
- ⇒ **Servicing is Devotion to God (Spiritual Worship):**
 - * We serve the Lord because of what He has done for us
 - * His sacrifice demands your sacrifice! Sacrifice always **COSTS!**
- ⇒ **Servicing Shows we Belong to Christ:**
 - * Read Romans 7:14
 - * **Servicing** is evidence that we love Jesus
 - * Visible harvest
- ⇒ **We Serve God by Servicing Others:**
 - * Read Colossians 3:23-24
 - * No matter what you're doing, who are you doing it for?
 - * Answer: You're doing it for the Lord.
 - * Read Matthew 25:40
 - * If you feed and clothe others, then you feed and clothe Me.
 - * If you haven't fed / clothed others, you haven't fed / clothed Me.

"Faith and works are bound up in the same bundle. He that obeys God trusts God; and he that trusts God obeys God. He that is without faith is without works; and he that is without works is without faith."

Charles Spurgeon

6. What visible differences are there between one who serves and one who does not serve?

NOT SERVING	SERVING
Becomes blind to the needs of others	Can see the needs of others
Sees servicing as a job/toil	Sees servicing as a ministry
Sees helping as wasted time	Sees helping as 'God at work'
Can lead to selfishness	Produces kindness
'Do you know Christ?'	Fruit of knowing Christ!

"To think of yourself as Christ like, but not willing to serve others, can be dangerously self-deluding."

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7. How can you develop in Ministry?
8. Read and discuss 1 Peter 2:9-10
9. **5 Biblical ways you can develop in ministry:**
 - ⇒ **Respond to God's Calling – Look to serve others!** **[PHILIPPIANS 2:4]:** Repent that you have not been serving
 - ⇒ **Make the time to help others** **[LUKE 10:25-37]:** Pray for space and Create space



⇒ **See the needs and be the solution [PROVERBS 3:27]:** See what others don't see

⇒ **Uncover your God given gifts:** Explore areas to serve.

* Find out your 'gifting' strengths. What draws your interest?

* Some gifting may never be revealed until we serve!

* You will be dissatisfied until its used (Let your gift breathe)

* **Spiritually (1CORINTHIANS 12:8–10): Power Gifts**

* **Practically (ROMANS 12:6–8): Grace Gifts**

⇒ **Develop your gifting – Fan into Flame [TIMOTHY 1:6]:** Join with similar gifts –

“Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works.”

Hebrews 10:24

“Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things with great love.”

Mother Teresa

10. Read Mark 8:35

11. What impact does Serving Release (Write 3 answers below)?

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

12. **5 Impacts of what Serving Releases:**

⇒ **Experience Life with Value -**

- If you're not serving, you're not living; just existing. Make your life meaningful.
- Read 1 Corinthians 15:58... 'In the Lord your labour is not in vain.'

⇒ **Creates deep friendships / Shared Experience...**

- Read 2 Timothy 2:1-5
- ...with those in your team
- ...with those that benefit

⇒ **Changes others profoundly**

- Read Philippians 1:5

⇒ **Door to the supernatural -**

- Read Luke 9:16-17

⇒ **Serving tests your faithfulness and you will be rewarded by God -**

- Read Matthew 25:21
- God always wants to grow and reward your serving
- God wants to celebrate what we do!

CONCLUSION:

You are called to be Like Christ!

“For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give His life as a ransom for many.”

Mark 10:45

Prayer:

“Father please help me to understand my own ministry calling and to see the importance and power of serving. I want to be able to see the needs around me and to know how I can best bring my time, resources and energy to help others. In Jesus name, Amen”

Going Deeper

Reading Material

As well as the Bible itself the following may be helpful:

Read “Big Potential: How Transforming the Pursuit of Success Raises Our Achievement, Happiness and Well-Being” Shawn Achor

Personal Spiritual Response

How is God speaking into your life right now? What decisions need to be made?

Have you made a personal commitment to fully trust in Jesus? Have you been baptised? If not, there is information at bcc.church/baptism to learn more.

Why not contact the Pastoral team to consider whether baptism, an Alpha Course or joining a Life Group could be a next step for you? Contact info@bcc.church for more information.



Serving Opportunity

BCC's directory of service opportunities <https://bcc.church/ministries> may help you find an opportunity to grow spiritually, whilst helping others.

