

How to be Used by God 2

Various Passages

2/19/23

Discussion Guide

Preparation

What are some fresh ways we can serve the community and present the love of Jesus in word and deed that would reach people who do not know him?

1. What distracts you from serving the Lord, the church or the community? What eats up your time that keeps you from getting involved in some form of service?
Jesus replied, "No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God." Luke 9:62
2. Share ways the pursuit of wealth can inhibit service. Have you seen wealthy people involved in service? Give some examples.
3. *"Do not wear yourself out to get rich."* Proverbs 23:4 Have you seen people do this to themselves?
4. *"Let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will see your good works and praise your heavenly Father."* Matthew 5:16 What good works are you involved in?
5. Service groups have almost dwindled away, groups like Rotary, Kiwanis, and Lions Club. Why do you think that is? Is that a good sign for our culture?
6. Share ways you've seen life imitating scripture.
7. How self-conscious were you as a kid? Are you still self-conscious or have you outgrown it? Has it ever inhibited you from getting involved in the church or community, speaking up to share what you believe about a topic in the company of others, or taking a stand for good or for God? Have you ever "hidden you light under a bushel" because you feared what other may think about you?
8. *"It is dangerous to be concerned with what others think of you, but if you trust the Lord, you are safe."* Proverbs 29:25 How is it dangerous to be concerned with what others think about us?
9. What path seemed right to you at one point in your life but it turned out to be the wrong path? What are some common paths people follow that promise happiness but deliver misery, long term?
10. Are your plans for your life, time, and wealth, getting in the way of serving others and the Lord? If not, what is getting in the way of serving? If nothing is getting in the way, why do you serve God, friends, others, the community?

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11. *"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."* Jeremiah 29:11 Share what God has done in your life recently.
12. Currently, 40% of the people who attended worship before COVID have yet to return to church. Why is that? Are we enabling them to stay home by offering worship online? What would you do: pull the plug or continue to provide online services?
13. Comment on the five things God want from us: Our worship, walk, relationships, work and witness. How are you using each in service to the Lord?
14. Comment on the five benefits of offering these five things to the Lord. They are: power to live on, people to live with, principles to live by, a profession to live out and a purpose to live for.
15. Have you completed the first work of God – to believe in his Son?
16. Further comments, questions or insight.