

1. Motivate

What's hardest about serving others?

An introduction video is available. View it at https://watch.liberty.edu/media/t/0_gvaizqqy

2. Transition

God calls us to seize the opportunity to serve.

- Paul takes different looks at why we serve
- He starts with how we are *free* to serve

3. Bible Study

3.1 Show Love by Serving

Listen for why we have freedom.

Galatians 5:13-15 (NIV) You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love. 14 The entire law is summed up in a single command: "Love your neighbor as yourself." 15 If you keep on biting and devouring each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other.

What are believers set free to do?

What is the connection between freedom in Christ and the command to serve?

What is an inappropriate use of the freedom believers have in Christ?

How can Paul say that the whole law is fulfilled by "loving your neighbor as yourself"?

How do you think relationships can be strengthened through acts of service?

How might the command to "serve one another in love" affect the attitudes and actions of Christians seeking to resolve conflict situations?

How can serving others actually be very liberating?

3.2 Serve by Helping to Carry Burdens

Listen for an apparent contradiction.

Galatians 6:1-5 (NIV) Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently. But watch yourself, or you also may be tempted. 2 Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. 3 If anyone thinks he is something when he is nothing, he deceives himself. 4 Each one should test his own actions. Then he can take pride in himself, without comparing himself to somebody else, 5 for each one should carry his own load.

What is to be the response and goal of believers toward another believer who is guilty of wrongdoing? What actions will this involve?

What picture comes to mind when you hear the word “restore?”

What is the difference between restoring with a gentle spirit and correcting him/her harshly?

Correcting Harshly	Restoring Gently

In what sense does bearing “another’s burdens ... fulfill the law of Christ”?

What caution did Paul offer believers?

What does this passage have to say about the temptation to feel superior to the erring brother or sister in Christ?

How do you explain the admonition to “bear one another’s burdens” with the admonition for every person to “bear his own burden”?

⇒ Here’s the apparent contradiction resolved

- help your brother/sister with _____
- don’t feel _____ because of this ... you’ve got your own _____

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Serve

3.3 Seize Every Opportunity to Serve

Listen for opportunities.

Galatians 6:10 (NIV) Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.

What opportunity did Paul urge the believers to seize?

To whom should believers “especially ... do good”? Why should that be true?

How can you help meet the needs of others *outside* the church?

What opportunities does our group have to work for the good of others?

How can we structure our lives to be ready to serve others?

Application

Family.

- Be intentional about blessing your family members this week.
- Make an extra effort to serve the people you love the most.

Church.

- Search for a specific way you can minister to your brothers and sisters in Christ.
- Start a service project or engage a long-term ministry.

Community.

- Think through your gifts and resources.
- Then find a need in your neighborhood or community that corresponds with those gifts and resources.
- Take action.

Double Puzzle

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*Oh what scrambled words we see, when first we try so hard to perceive." I'm Sir Walter Scott, and that's not what I really said. But the phrases from Galatians 5 are scrambled and you can **serve** by **unscrambling** them to determine the message from another famous person you've heard about. Copy the letters in the numbered cells to other cells with the same number.*




Pshaw! Need help?
Need more activities?
Follow this QR code.