

THE CHURCH TRAINING – SESSION 2 - SERVE

“Watching for God to Work”

“If we function according to our ability alone, we get the glory; if we function according to the power of the Spirit within us, God gets the glory. He wants to reveal Himself to a watching world.” – Henry T. Blackaby.

God does not want to join you in your ministry. God wants you to join Him in His ministry!

ASSIGNMENT 1: Each day this week, as you continue to spend time listening to God and asking God to work in individuals around you that you will SHARE with and SERVE, you will keep your eyes peeled for God at work. God keeps His promises, so He is ALREADY working! Your job this week is to notice where God is working and document below or in your journal where you see His activity.

“Surely the Sovereign Lord does nothing without revealing His plan to His servants the prophets.” – Amos 3:7 (NIV)

A few examples of what it might look like to see God at work this week...

1. You receive a phone call from someone you were not expecting to hear from.
2. You unexpectedly sense a prompting to initiate a conversation or visit someone.
3. You share what God is doing in your life with a friend and the friend wants to know more.
4. You receive an email from someone who mentions hardships, difficult circumstances, or spiritual issues.
5. You see a Facebook post where it is evident God is *working* in the life of one of your friends.
6. You recognize a difficult circumstance that someone is experiencing and you feel prompted to respond.
7. Someone initiates an unexpected conversation with you about the church, God, difficult circumstances or relationships.

These are just a few examples of a million different ways that God works. Keep your eyes open for God this week and write down where you see Him working below...

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

“Joining God through Emotional and Spiritual Service”

Scripture: Jesus explained to His disciples: “But I’ve taken my place among you as the one who *serves*. And you’ve stuck with me through thick and thin.” - Luke 22:28 (Message)

Quick Summary: You have been praying for God to bring people into your life and ministry to SHARE with and to SERVE. There are two huge benefits to serving. First, serving teaches you humility and selflessness that leads to a healthy thought life and strong emotional life (e.g., It is difficult to be depressed if you are not focusing on self!). Second, SERVING, as noted in Jesus’ words in the Luke 22 passage above, gives you the opportunity to extend significant influence with others. Freedom Communities CANNOT occur unless you are SERVING! As you SHARE & SERVE, your Freedom Community will flourish! Notice how Jesus encouraged each of us to SERVE:

Jesus encourages us to SERVE: Mark 10:42-45: Jesus called them over and said to them, “You know that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles dominate them, and their men of high positions exercise power over them. But it must not be like that among you. On the contrary, **whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant**, and whoever wants to be first among you must be a slave to all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve...”

ASSIGNMENT 2: There are two primary areas where you can serve another person. First, you can serve someone emotionally and spiritually. Second, you can serve someone practically and physically. This week you will look for God to be working in the lives of people around you and join Him by serving them emotionally and spiritually. Here is how you do it: This week as God reveals to you people to serve you do 3 things:

1. **DISARM** by find *some* truth in what they say if they are upset (do not defend!)

2. **LISTEN** by repeating and rephrasing what they say (do not give advice!)
3. **ASK** questions about what they are talking about (do not try to fix them or the problem – that is God’s job!).

It’s important to note that these are the people that God is bringing into your Freedom Community!

Examples of how to SERVE emotionally and spiritually:

See God: You see a Facebook post where it is evident God is working in the life of one of your friends who is upset.

Join God: You send them an encouraging message and **DISARM** him or her by finding *some* truth in what was said.

See God: You receive an email from someone who mentions hardships, difficult circumstances, or spiritual issues.

Join God: You invite them to lunch and **LISTEN** to them (without advice!).

See God: You share what God is doing in your life with a friend and he/she engages in the discussion.

Join God: Instead of trying to get your friend to join your ministry, you **ASK** how you can serve him.

Write the names of the people God brings to you to SERVE this week and provide a brief explanation of how you SERVED them below or in your journal:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

“Joining God through Practical and Physical Service”

Scripture: “As each one has received a special gift, employ it in *serv*ing one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.” – **1 Peter 4:10 (NASB)**

Quick Summary: You have been praying for God to bring people into your life and ministry to SHARE with and SERVE. Now you will focus on SERVING practically and physically. Remember: There the two huge benefits to serving and that as you SHARE & SERVE, your Freedom Community will flourish! Notice how Jesus SERVED practically and physically and encouraged us to do the same as recorded by John below:

Jesus met the physical need of food: John 6:8-13: One of His disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, said to Him, “**There’s a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish**—but what are they for so many?” Then Jesus said, “Have the people sit down.” There was plenty of grass in that place, so they sat down. The men numbered about 5,000. Then Jesus took the loaves, and after giving thanks **He distributed them to those who were seated**—so also with the fish, as much as they wanted. When they were full, He told His disciples, “**Collect the leftovers** so that nothing is wasted.”

ASSIGNMENT 3: As you keep your eye open, God will bring people to you that you can practically and physically SERVE and your job is to join God at work as He leads. Below is a number of examples of practically and physically serving others. (NOTE: Only SERVE as God prompts and do not draw attention to yourself.)

Examples: Open the door for someone, cover an elderly person with an umbrella, pay for a meal, help a family member, volunteer for a non-profit, send flowers, help a friend or neighbor with the yard or other projects, home repair, visit a shut in, return an empty trash can from the street, help with cleaning, baking cookies for a neighbor etc.

Write the names of the situations God brings to you and how you SERVED by joining Him below or in your journal:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

IMPORTANT NOTE: This is not about *getting* someone to join a Freedom Community! This is about joining God at work and allowing God to bring people into your Freedom Community.