

**CCIW**

CHRIST CHURCH INNER WEST  
ANGLICAN COMMUNITY

A CHURCH FOR GROWING PEOPLE

# A Life of Service

**Fellowship Group  
Integrated Series**



## Background

*Our mission at CCIW is to be a Biblically vital Christian community where believers, as well as strangers to the love of Jesus, grow more and more into fully devoted children of God.*

Our strategy for encouraging this growth is via the ***Means of Grace***.

Worshipping together

A Rich Personal Devotion

Joyous Fellowship

Serving in Ministry

A Gracious Witness

We wish to launch the second in this series, ***A Life of Service***, which seeks to tackle the area of **Serving in Ministry** through an Integrated *Sermon and Fellowship Group Study Series* in August/September 2009.

## A Life of Service

The goal of this integrated series is that ***people grow in understanding of, commitment to, and the implementation of a life devoted to serving Christ, his church and his world.***

Generally speaking the goal of the **sermon** series is

- To teach and inspire about the nature, needs and challenges of Christian service

The goal/s of the **Fellowship Group** material is to

- discuss the sermon teaching and to seek to graft such teaching into our lives.
- grant time and space to develop a personal plan for growing in our Christian service.
- permit opportunities to discover our gifts, passion, personality and ministry context
- give opportunities for members to easily join ministry teams
- grow a culture of gift and ministry encouragement

# Study 1 Freed to Serve



---

## INTRODUCTION

When you hear the word "ministry" what do you think of?



As you think back on your Christian journey, whether short or long, were there times when God challenged or transformed your thinking, attitudes and/or actions about Christian service?

*Take a moment to write down one or two of these and then share together as a group.*

Along your Christian journey, was there someone who stands out to you as an example of Christian service? What stood out to you about their lives?

### **Read Mark 10:32-34**

Jesus' whole life was an act of service. Here we have Jesus foretelling what such service would ultimately cost him.

Keep these words in mind as you read the next section.

### **Read Mark 10: 35-45**

1. What words can you think of that describe the disciples as they interact with Jesus?

2. In our society today, what markers are there that indicate a person's importance?

### **3. Re-read verses 42-44**

a. How radical does this way of living seem to you?

b. What do these verses tell us about God's value system?

c. Why might a call to serve *like this*, be so hard for us?



#### 4. Re-read Mark 10:45

a. How does the fact that Jesus served **you** in this way impart your **understanding** of service?

b. How does the fact that Jesus served **you** in this way impart your **willingness** to serve?

c. Reflect on the following 2 questions on your own –

i. On a scale of 1 to 10, where are you in putting yourself out to serve others?

1 \_\_\_ 2 \_\_\_ 3 \_\_\_ 4 \_\_\_ 5 \_\_\_ 6 \_\_\_ 7 \_\_\_ 8 \_\_\_ 9 \_\_\_ 10

ii. On a scale of 1 to 10, where you like to be?

1 \_\_\_ 2 \_\_\_ 3 \_\_\_ 4 \_\_\_ 5 \_\_\_ 6 \_\_\_ 7 \_\_\_ 8 \_\_\_ 9 \_\_\_ 10

d. How can we move closer to where we want to be without being motivated solely by guilt or duty and without becoming resentful or bitter?

e. How can the grace of God keep fuelling our life of service?

## **TIME OUT**

As you reflect on the sermon last Sunday and this study, what issues/questions/challenges arise for you?

Of these is there one thing you can share with the group?

Pray about the things you have shared with one another.



---

## HOMEWORK

Yes sorry there IS homework!

Make sure you don't go home tonight without:

Gift questionnaire,  
personality questionnaire,  
passion questionnaire

All these resources can be found online in the “Integrated Series” Folder.at:

<http://www.cciw.org.au/resources/bible-studies>

WARNING! Don't leave this homework to the night before FG next week! There is a lot of work but it will pay huge dividends if we have all done it by next week.

**Goal: By your next meeting you need to have filled out the "YOUR FINDINGS" page at the beginning of study 2.**

# Study 2

# Empowered to serve



---

## FEEDBACK

Any further thoughts/comments/points of praise from last week's study?



---

## MY FINDINGS

### My Gifts

My gifts are ...

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

Some of the things I learnt about these gifts are...

### My Personality

My Personality type is \_\_\_\_\_

Some of the key characteristics of this personality type are:

Based on this personality type, the primary way I might expect to serve people will involve:

### My Passions

My Passions in life are

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

---

## THE MINISTRY OF LIFE BRAINSTORM

This study has a lot of potential to be a hugely encouraging and empowering time. The idea is that we spend about 10 minutes on each person in your group tonight. If you have a large number of people in your group you will need to make sure you watch the clock very closely. HAVE LOTS OF FUN!!!

### NEED

You will need

1. a large piece of butchers paper for each person
2. and one marker pen.

### INSTRUCTIONS

For each person ...

1. Get them to briefly share their home work findings.
2. Read out the brief personality description to remind everyone of the personality type.
3. Then together brainstorm this question ...  
**"In the next 5-10 minutes lets as creatively and broadly as we can try and think of as many ways as possible in which "INSERT NAME HERE", with this personality and this passion in this context COULD use these gifts to live a life of service"**
4. REMEMBER: the rules of brainstorming.
  - a. no idea is too silly, write down every idea even if it sounds improbable because these ideas might spark and lead to other better ideas.
5. During the brainstorming get the person to write with the marker the different ideas on their own bit of butchers paper.
6. At the end of the brainstorming time.
  - a. Ask the person how they feel and what ideas have captured their imagination and might be possibilities for them to pursue.



This activity will easily take up your whole time.

Make sure you give some time to thank God for his wonderful creativity in blessing us with so many and such diverse gifts!

# Study 3

# The way of Service



---

## FEEDBACK

Any further thoughts/comments/points of praise from last weeks study or sermon?



For each of us our way of serving will look a bit different. We have different gifts, opportunities, personalities and levels of Christian maturity. However some underlying guidelines will help all of us develop a servant mindset that will permeate whatever differences there are.

Remember!

- This is about developing mindset not a rule book.
- Jesus took time out to rest and be refreshed in his life as the perfect Servant.

### **Guidelines for the way of service.**

*(This is just a small selection as so much of the Bible talks about serving.)*

Read the following passages.

- a. Identify any guideline/s for the way of service.
- b. Discuss how this/these guideline/s might help us as we serve.

1 Corinthians 3:5-9

1 Corinthians 4: 1-5

Galatians 6: 9-10

Ephesians 4: 11-13

1 Corinthians 15: 54-58

---

## AN EXAMPLE OF SERVING

The apostle Paul wrote to the Thessalonians about the way he had served them when he first came to Thessalonica.

**Read 1 Thessalonians 2: 1-12** and see how many guidelines you can identify that shaped the way Paul served.

How does Paul's example help us as we seek to develop a mindset of service?



Is there anything that has stood out to you in this study that we can pray for as we seek to live lives of service?

Pray for each other.

---

### **WRAPPING UP THE SERIES**

**At home**, as homework, look back over the last 3 studies and think through the following

I have learnt following in this series.....

I am challenged by the following.....

I would like to grow in the following ways in the next year.....

What is one thing I would like to share with the group next week from the above three reflections.....

Then next week we may do this following exercise...

Hear from one another and then pray for one another in the following way.

After hearing from each person take a moment for all the members of the group to lay hands on the person and pray this prayer together

**Our Gracious Heavenly Father,**

**Take [NAME] and use [NAME]**

**to love and serve you and all people**

**in the name of Christ**

**and in the power of the Holy Spirit.**

**AMEN.**

