

# SERVING TOGETHER IN THE FAMILY BUSINESS

*Ephesians 1:5 (nlt)* God decided in advance to adopt us into His own family by bringing us to Himself through Jesus Christ. This is what He wanted to do, and it gave Him great pleasure.

*1 Peter 1:3 (tlb)* For it is His boundless mercy that has given us the privilege of being born again so that we are now members of God's own family.

**Jesus was committed to the family business.**

*Luke 2:48-50 (nkjv)* So when they saw Him, they were amazed; and His mother said to Him, "Son, why have You done this to us? Look, Your father and I have sought You anxiously." And He said to them, "Why did you seek Me? Did you not know that I must be about My Father's business?"

**What is the business of God's family?**

*Luke 19:10 (nlt)* For the Son of Man came to seek and save those who are lost.

*John 3:16-17*

*Mark 10:45 (nasb)* For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many.

**We are created and gifted to live life doing good works for the cause of Jesus.**

*Ephesians 2:10 (ncv)* God has made us what we are. In Christ Jesus, God made us to do good works, which God planned in advance for us to live our lives doing.

**We serve Jesus by serving others.**

*1 Peter 4:10 (cev)* Each of you has been blessed with one of God's many wonderful gifts to be used in the service of others. So use your gift well.

**Our serving depends on our availability.**

Jesus encourages us to give our life away in order to find it.

*Mark 8:35 (nlt)* If you try to keep your life for yourself, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for MY sake and for the sake of the Good News, you will find true life.

We get our self-worth by serving Jesus and being used by Him.

**WHAT PREVENTS US FROM BEING AVAILABLE TO SERVE?**

## 1. Being self-centred.

*Philippians 2:4 (msg)* Forget yourselves long enough to lend a helping hand.

*John 10:12-13 (nlt)* A hired hand (nkjv hireling) will run when he sees a wolf coming. He will abandon the sheep because they don't belong to him and he isn't their shepherd. And so the wolf attacks them and scatters the flock. The hired hand runs away because he's working only for the money and doesn't really care about the sheep.

## 2. Wanting everything to be right.

*Ecclesiastes 11:4 (nlt)* If you wait for perfect conditions, you'll never get anything done.

Genuine servants do the best they can with what they have.

## 3. The pursuit of wealth and pleasures.

*Luke 16:13 (nkjv)* "No servant can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon." (mammon: wealth and riches)

We can become so occupied in accumulating wealth and possessions that we don't allocate time to serve.

*1 John 2:15 (ph)* Never give your hearts to this world or to any of the things in it. A man cannot love the Father and love the world at the same time.

By feeding our fleshly appetites we can be led away from the purposes of God for our life.

## 4. Wrong motivations.

*Matthew 6:1 (cev)* When you do good deeds, don't try to show off. If you do, you won't get a reward from your Father in heaven.

## 5. A lack of commitment.

*1 Corinthians 4:2 (tev)* The one thing required of servants is that they be faithful...

*1 Corinthians 15:58 (msg)* Throw yourselves into the work of the Master, confident that nothing you do for Him is a waste of time or effort.

## CONCLUSION

At the end of Jesus' ministry on earth, He said: *I have brought You glory on earth by completing the work You gave me to do. John 17:4*

Jesus was faithful in fulfilling His service.

Jesus wants us to serve for the rest of our lives in His family business.

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## QUESTIONS FOR SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

1. How does Jesus' attitude towards service influence your approach to service?
2. How does our service contribute to the 'business of God's family' (saving the lost)?
3. What talents and abilities do you believe God has gifted you with in order to serve him and 'do good deeds'?
4. How do you use these talents and abilities to engage in active service for God through serving others?
5. How does serving others contribute to the 'business of God's family'?
6. In what ways do availability, being self-centred, wanting everything to be right, pursuing wealth and pleasures, wrong motivations, and a lack of commitment impact our service?