

## Day 4: The rewards of serving

Read it: Ephesians 6:7-8 & Matthew 6:20-21

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### Think about it:

God loves it when you serve—because He knows that some exciting things happen. Of course the people being served get blessed. And when we serve in the name of Jesus, God gets the glory and people get to see that Jesus loves them.

God also gets excited about how you get blessed when you serve. In Ephesians 6 it talks about how God rewards you for serving. What does that mean—do you really get a reward? Time and time again at Bethlehem we hear from people that serve—and they feel like by serving they were even more blessed than the people that they served. It could be a group of people preparing breakfast at the Salvation Army, or a family going to a senior citizen's home to clean up the yard. A servant could be a man directing traffic in the church parking lot or a couple leading a small group for kids. Or it could be senior citizens stuffing bulletins or even a 3rd grader running the sound system in the Lighthouse. Through all of those areas, the common report we hear: thank you for letting us serve!

So whether your actual treasure is in heaven (Matthew 6) or here on earth (Ephesians 6), take the plunge and see what it is like to serve like Jesus served. He modeled it, He designed you to do it, His church will grow when you do it—and you will be rewarded!

### Act on it:

Find your place to get plugged in serving (see “Act on it” from Day 3) or if you are already serving take some time to step back and thank God for the blessings you are receiving as you serve. He wants to reward you and He wants you to enjoy serving!



# HAMMERTIME

Week 6  
March 15, 2009

**Purpose:** To nail down this week's Awaken topic (Serving Others).

**How to use it:** Individuals can do it on their own 4 times a week to cultivate this habit of spending time with God regularly. Families: adults are encouraged to do HammerTime on their own & then meet with their whole family to go through it together.

**Example of time:** Read verses (3 min), Discuss/think about (5 min), Pray (2 min)

**For more tools:** check out Bethlehembc.com or AwakenToolbox.com.

## Day 1: Jesus modeled service

Read it: Mark 10:45 & Philippians 3:3-8

### Think about it:

Have you ever been in the presence of someone who was really popular or even famous? Someone like the president, Bill Gates or Tiger Woods? What if you met the president and when he noticed some mud on your shoe he bent down and wiped it off for you? That would seem pretty weird, wouldn't it? The world tells us that famous and powerful people should be served, not that they should serve others. Well, Jesus turned that idea upside down.

In Mark 10:45, what does it say Jesus came to do? His plan was to love people and lead them to a place where they also loved God and loved other people. He realized the best way to do this was by starting off serving them. The verses in Philippians tell us that our attitude should be the same as Jesus (v5)—we should not just look out for ourselves, but genuinely care about other people. Sometimes it is hard to serve other people, but God's calling for us is to overcome that discomfort, serve with humility (v3) and through that show people God's love.

**Act on it:** Every day this week, be thinking about how you can serve other people. It can be simple (opening a door, letting someone go first, etc.) or advanced (helping a neighbor, taking a friend some food, etc). Opportunities are everywhere...look for a chance to serve.

## Day 2: You were designed to serve!

Read it: Ephesians 2:10 & 1 Peter 4:10

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### Think about it:

Having the right tools is so important when you are working on a project. Have you ever been building something and there is one last bolt to tighten, but you can't find the right attachment for the socket set? You have plenty of other attachments and even other wrenches, but for that size and that tight space, there is one tool perfectly designed for the job at hand. When you do find it, the project flows smoothly and you are quite satisfied.

Do you know that God also created you a specific way? Ephesians 2:10 describes you like a tool that God designed with a specific purpose—and created with great care and pride. He loves how He made you! But just like the socket set, you are missed when you are not available for the job at hand. It is God's desire that His grace is shared with everyone and 1 Peter 4:10 talks about your part in that plan. God calls you to serve others, using your unique blend of gifts, talents and passions to be a valuable tool in His toolbox. We will learn more tomorrow about how all God's tools work together, but it first starts with you realizing that:

1. You are designed by God.
2. He wants you to understand how you are gifted.
3. You are called to use your gifts to serve others.

### Act on it:

Do some thinking on your own or spend time with your family or friends talking about how you personally are designed as a tool. What talents do you have? What type of things interest you (these are your passions)? What are unique characteristics about you that God wants to use? These things will help you better understand how God designed you—which will help you figure out where to get plugged in (see day 3).



## Day 3: When people serve, the church GROWS

Read it: Acts 6:1-7 & 1 Corinthians 12:12

### Think about it:

The early church (very soon after Jesus left the earth) was experiencing some serious growth pains. Like Best Buy on the day after Thanksgiving, there were people everywhere! People were learning about Jesus, accepting Him as Savior and inviting their friends and family to come and hear, too. It was great! But there was a problem, one that actually began to limit the church's growth and even caused some people to grumble and complain (6:1). The problem came down to this: the leaders of the church were overwhelmed by the growth and could not effectively minister to everyone. They needed more help.

In Acts 6:2-6 it describes the plan they put together to involve more people serving—getting people plugged in to meet needs and serve in areas in which they were gifted. Look at verse 7—the church grew! They jumped off the attendance plateau, moved past this limitation and by finding their spot to serve (1 Corinthians 12:12) the group of people moved forward effectively. Like your body is made up of many important parts, each person in a church has an important role to play. A church will grow when the parts of the body are working together.

Why is church growth important? Because each of us used to be outside of this church and if it had stopped growing we never would have found Christ and become a part of what God is doing here. God wants His church to always keep growing! Find your place to serve and be a part of our church's growth process.

### Act on it:

If you want to find a place to serve at Bethlehem, contact a ministry that interests you (check the website or the Information Center in the lobby) or contact Bethlehem's Pastor of Connections, Matt Vanderbilt, at 704-823-5050 x104 or [mvanderbilt@bethlehembc.com](mailto:mvanderbilt@bethlehembc.com).

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