



You Were
MADE *To Serve*

PORTICO
LEARNING HUB



ESSENTIALS - MODULE 6



"How many of us have ever worked as a server at a restaurant? If you've ever been in these roles, you will have battle scars and horror stories about how people treat you rudely because their meal is later than expected. Or the table that only tipped 5% because they didn't like how the food was prepared... even though you clearly had nothing to do with it's preparation. Serving becomes something we have no interest in doing because of how we are treated.

But when you take a closer look at the Bible, you'll see that you were actually designed in a way that you'll never feel fulfilled unless you embrace your role as a servant.

Now that doesn't mean you'll always be employed as a server, but it's actually about living your life to serve other people. Specifically, God designed us to serve his mission in growing his kingdom.

When we live our lives in self-serving kind of way, it definitely brings an immediate sense of fulfillment or enjoyment. When we spend money on ourselves, or draw attention to ourselves, it makes us feel valued or important. It's OK to admit that caring for our own needs brings a measure of satisfaction. I like doing the stuff I like, and buying the stuff I want. But to truly live a fulfilling life, requires a refocus of our time, energies, and even our dollars into serving the needs of other people or a greater purpose than ourselves.

Consider the feeling you have when you volunteer at a charity. Even though you have been working and doing something for people you don't even probably know, it feels good because you have made an impact in the world. That good feeling is a result of how God created us. He created us to serve other people.

In this module, we'll take a look at why volunteering is so critical to the life of a Christian. At PORTICO, this is our third core value that we call SERVE.

Together, we serve Christ's mission in the world."

Rick Carroll

Key Takeaways



01

JESUS MODELLED A LIFE OF SERVICE

02

JESUS HIGHLIGHTED
THE PURPOSE OF SERVICE



03

THE CHURCH RUNS ON SERVICE



*For even the Son of Man came not to be served
but to serve others and to give His life as a
ransom for many.*

MATTHEW 20:28 (NLT)

01

Jesus Modelled a Life of Service

The name "Christian" is literally translated as "little Christs." If we are labelling ourselves as Christian, it means we are modelling our lives after Christ. Not that we can ever become like Him in terms of being God, but we can model the human life that He lived as an example for us. And when we look at Jesus life on earth, it was continually lived in a way that met other people's needs over His own needs.

For all the years that Jesus lived on earth and taught others, His followers were assuming that He was going to someday become the literal king of Israel and have the same kind of political power that their former kings had. After all, all of the prophecies about who a Messiah was described a king. So it was confusing for Jesus' followers to figure out that what He meant as king was very different than what the world understands a king to be. Jesus regularly had to challenge their way of thinking.

Our modern perspective is sadly often not that different than the perspective the Jews had. We presume that a person with wealth and privilege should have a great deal of power. But that's not how Jesus lived.



A king in God's kingdom is one that regularly gives up privileges and makes the people that he serves the priority.



You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had. Though He was God, he did not think of equality with as something to cling to. Instead he gave up His divine privileges; he took the humble position of a slave.

PHILIPPIANS 2:5 (NLT)

Jesus lived in a way that demonstrated mission was more important than personal comfort. Serving God's purposes were more important than serving any purpose we might have for ourselves. These lines are very blurred in modern Christianity. We all have goals we'd like to accomplish, or positions we'd like to achieve. Most of these goals and positions seem to come hand in hand with upward movement. We want promotions, higher pay, more recognition and stuff like that. We work hard, so we conclude that we will personally gain from it. Even when we are doing it for the Kingdom, God's purpose, we probably have a bit of selfish ambitions connected to it. (If we were honest with ourselves).

Have you ever thought, "I wish that all my hard work was more appreciated." Or have you ever felt that you deserve more money, more authority, more control?

It is not uncommon for volunteer roles to start to feel more like an unpaid job. You might start to wonder whether you should be investing all these hours volunteering when it's not really benefitting you. Measure this thought up against the life and ministry of Jesus.

Jesus left everything He had and came to earth to serve you and I. It gained Him nothing and yet cost him everything. None of this should make us feel ashamed or guilty about starting to question our volunteer work, or lack of recognition. But we should be reminded that our great example, Jesus, God incarnate, showed us that service has very little to do with us and what we deserve, and so much more to do with making sure God gets what He deserved.

Serving others honours God's sacrifice for us.



*Foxes have dens to live in, and birds have nests,
but the Son of Man has no place
even to lay his head.*

MATTHEW 8:20 (NLT)



Reflection #1

In what ways have you been thinking about serving and volunteering in a way that serves your own purposes more than God's purposes?

How can you get involved more in your community or at church?

Notes



Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

MATTHEW 28:19 (NLT)

02

Jesus Highlighted The Purpose of Service

Does it really matter how and where we volunteer?

There are endless places that we can get involved by serving in our community. You can coach soccer, or help out with food drives, plant trees, wash cars, deliver flyers, rake lawns. There will always be an organization that is asking for your time to volunteer.

Here at PORTICO, we don't call it volunteering. Volunteering is great, but it's not actually our purpose. Our purpose is to help people find their way back to God. That's why we call each other Ministry Partners. Every volunteer role around the church is literally partnering with each other, and partnering with God, serving the great purpose that He gave us as His followers.

The time and energy that you invest serving at PORTICO is not just about running a community program. You're part of a team that is sharing the Good News of Jesus with the church and the community. Some people serve directly by leading a Growth Group, or by participating on a worship team, or teaching a class. Others do it indirectly, like welcoming someone to church with a smile so that they feel comfortable joining our services, or by preparing food for an event where the Gospel will be shared.

**The purpose of serving is to
help people find their way back to God.**

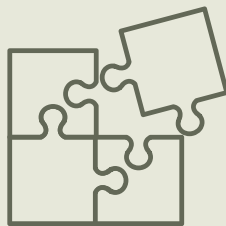
But regardless of what your specific role is, each part is an integral piece of the puzzle that when put together, completes a beautiful picture fulfilling the mission Jesus gave for us.

This does not mean that serving in the community is a lesser act of service than serving in the church. If you share the love of Jesus wherever you volunteer you will be impacting lives.

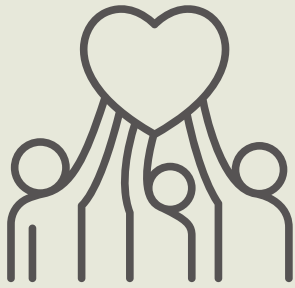
Some of us are wired to serve in the community. But for most of us, the best place to start is by getting involved in one of the ministries of the Church.

Every week, hundreds of Ministry Partners at PORTICO serve in various roles without getting much recognition, but they continue to serve because it's the model Jesus gave for us.

Every week, each of our Ministry Partners are getting the privilege of sharing Jesus with the people we serve.



Volunteering is more than just helping a cause, it's ministry.



Reflection #2

How can you help serve Christ's mission in the world of making disciples?

How can you get involved more in your community or at church?

Notes



Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ.

EPHESIANS 4:11-12 (NLT)

03

The Church Runs on Service

One of the best things that has happened to the Church in Canada over the years is that ministry has become a profession. People who are called by God to devote their lives to teaching, loving and equipping the Church now receive a proper degree, and earn a decent salary.

Paul wrote in **Ephesians 4:11-12** that there were 5 kinds of gifted people that God had set apart to equip His Church.

- **Apostles**
- **Prophets**
- **Evangelists**
- **Pastors**
- **Teachers**

In previous generations, pastors had to work other jobs, and invest countless hours above and beyond just to earn a living and serve the Church well. Today, pastors are able to devote the core hours of their days building up the Church, equipping people, and serving on the front lines of ministry because they are supported by the Church community.



The Church has been able to grow and offer more programs because of all the people devoting their lives and work to Church ministry.



There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit is the source of them all. There are different kinds of service, but we serve the same Lord. God works in different ways, but it is the same God who does the work in all of us.

1 CORINTHIANS 12:4-5 (NLT)

The downside to this is the reciprocal effect it's had on the Church.

At times, some Christians start to view themselves as less important to the success of a ministry, than the Pastor who is employed by the church. While it's true that maybe some pastors have more training and carry a different role to lead a ministry, it's faulty thinking to conclude that the Church is supposed to run only on the giftings and investments of the people who work there.

If we limit our understanding of what "The Church" is doing to what the paid staff do, we're missing God's picture and plan for His Church. His plan was that every believer would use their gifts, talents and abilities to work together to make disciples.

Your gift is no more or less valuable than anyone else.

Bible College trained, paid church staff, brand new believers or volunteers - we're all part of the same team, with a shared responsibility of helping people find their way back to God.



**God has entrusted us with an ability,
and a responsibility to serve.**



Reflection #3

What gifts or talents do you have to serve your community?

Are you ready to make a commitment to serve at church?

Notes



Serve NOW

In our next module, we're going to go deeper into discovering what gifts God has given you. Sometimes people have a desire to serve, but they're just not sure where they would fit best. Module 7 is all about finding your gifting, so if you have more questions, I encourage you to go complete that module first and then come back here. But if you think you're ready to get serving now, please visit PORTICO.cc/SERVE and fill out our ministry partner application and get started in fulfilling the great purpose Jesus has for you.

[PORTICO.CC/SERVE](https://PORTICO.cc/SERVE)



*Now these are the gifts
Christ gave to the church:
the apostles, the prophets,
the evangelists, and the
pastors and teachers.*

EPHESIANS 4:11 (NLT)

*But among you it will be
different. Whoever wants to be
the leader among you must be
your servant, and whoever wants
to be first among you must be the
slave of everyone else.*

MARK 10:43 (NLT)

*For we are God's
masterpiece. He has
created us anew in Christ
Jesus, so we can do the
good things he planned for
us long ago.*

EPHESIANS 2:10 (NLT)

*For even the Son of
Man came not to be
served but to serve others
and to give his life as a
ransom for many.*

MATTHEW 20:28 (NLT)

*There are different
kinds of service, but
we serve the same
Lord.*

1 CORINTHIANS 12:5 (NLT)