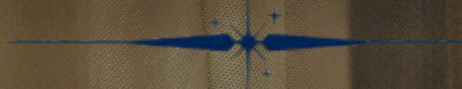


SERVE 301

M



Lesson Devotionals

Devotional

After each of the seven lessons, you'll find seven short devotionals, one for each morning of the week. These devotionals are designed to help you:

1. Reflect on the core scripture and message from the previous lesson
2. Deepen your personal connection with God
3. Apply spiritual truths to your daily life

How It Works

1. **When are the lessons taught?** Each lesson is taught on Wednesday evening.
2. **When does the devotion start?** Your first devotional begins the next morning (Thursday).
3. **How long do I read?** You'll continue reading one devotional each morning through the following Wednesday morning, just before the next lesson begins that evening.

This schedule gives you a full week to sit with the message, respond to God's Word, and prepare your heart for what's next.

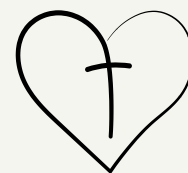
What to Expect

Each devotional will take about 3–5 minutes to read and includes:

1. A guiding scripture
2. A brief reflection or story
3. A real-life application
4. A simple challenge or prompt to carry with you throughout the day

These devotionals are written with your life in mind, honest, reflective, and rooted in faith. Whether you're reading at your kitchen table, during your commute, or in a quiet moment before your day begins, I encourage you to slow down, lean in, and let God speak to you.





SERVE 301 – Lesson 1 Devotional Series Serving Like Jesus

Day 1 – The Power of a Towel John 13:14–15 (NRSV) *“So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you.”* Sometimes we think service has to look big to matter. A platform. A title. A movement. But Jesus chose a towel. When His time was short and His mission weighty, He didn’t grab a throne. He grabbed a basin. He kneeled. He washed the dirt from His disciples’ feet, including Judas’. His service wasn’t flashy, but it was revolutionary. In a culture that measures worth by status, Jesus teaches us that greatness is found on our knees, with hands wet, a heart low, and loving even those who might betray us. Today, let the Spirit shift your perspective. No act of love is too small to reflect Jesus. The way you help your neighbor carry groceries, the grace you show a coworker, the way you guide that young person at church it’s all kingdom work. Don’t underestimate the power of your towel. Ask God to show you who needs to experience His love through your service today.

Day 2 – Hidden Service, Eternal Impact Matthew 6:3–4 (NRSV) *“But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.”*

Our world celebrates what’s seen. Likes, shares, applause but God notices the hidden things. The quiet prayers for someone struggling, the meal you drop off without needing thanks, the late nights you spend preparing to serve. In the Black church tradition, we’ve seen generations of mothers, ushers, deacons, and choir members who served tirelessly in the background, holding the house together. That unseen labor? Heaven sees it. Heaven rewards it.

Today, ask God to help you serve without looking for praise. Let your joy be in knowing He sees. And trust this: what’s done in secret will echo in eternity.

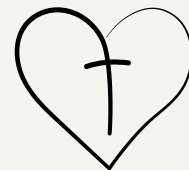
Day 3 – Loving Difficult People Luke 6:35 (NRSV) *“But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked.”*

Serving like Jesus means serving even when it’s hard, especially when it’s hard. Think of that coworker who tests your patience, the family member who never seems grateful, the neighbor who always seems negative. Jesus washed Judas’ feet, knowing betrayal was coming. He calls us to love those who don’t love us back, to give without strings, and to reflect the kindness of God even in tough spaces.

Today, ask God to help you love and serve that “hard-to-love” person. Not for their sake alone, but so your heart reflects His.

Day 4 – The Small is Sacred Zechariah 4:10 (NRSV) *For whoever has despised the day of small things shall rejoice...* In a world that often celebrates the big, the loud, and the visible, God reminds us that the small is sacred. We must not overlook the power of beginnings that feel humble or gestures that seem insignificant. A whispered prayer. A gentle smile. A single encouraging word. A quiet act of generosity. These may not draw applause, but heaven sees, and God multiplies. What looks small to you may be life-changing to someone else. A seed may fit in your hand, but it holds a forest inside it. God takes the ordinary and multiplies it into the extraordinary. Your small yes to Him today can ripple into testimonies tomorrow.

Today, Ask yourself when you have seen God turn something small into a great blessing for you or for others?



Day 5 – Service as Worship Romans 12:1 (NRSV) *“I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.”*

Worship is more than a song. It’s in how we live, work, serve, and give. When you serve with love, whether teaching a child, comforting a friend, or helping a neighbor, you are offering worship to God. The sanctuary isn’t the only place where worship happens. Your job site, kitchen, and classroom are holy ground when you serve in His name.

Today, see your service as worship. Ask God to help you give Him your best heart, hands, and all.

Day 6 – Strength for Servants Isaiah 40:31 (NRSV) *“...but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.”*

Serving others can be tiring. Whether you’re raising children, leading in ministry, working long hours, or caring for family, weariness can set in. But God promises renewal. When we lean on Him, He lifts us, strengthens us, and helps us keep going. Our strength comes not from pushing harder but from waiting on Him. **Today**, ask God for fresh strength. Rest in Him. Let Him renew you so you can keep serving with joy.

Day 7 – Serve With Joy Psalm 100:2 (NRSV) *“Worship the Lord with gladness; come into his presence with singing.”* Serving Jesus isn’t meant to feel like a burden. Yes, it’s work. But it’s joyful work. We serve because we’re grateful. After all, we’ve been loved first, because it’s a privilege to reflect Him. In the traditions of our people, joy has always been part of service, from the rhythm of gospel choirs to the smile of a church mother greeting you at the door. Let that joy fuel you.

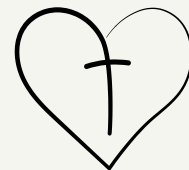
Today, ask God to renew your joy in serving. Smile as you serve. Sing as you work. Let your gladness testify to the goodness of the One you serve.

SERVE 301 – Lesson 2 Devotional Series: Gifted to Serve

Day 1 – Humility and Joy Peter 4:10 (NRSV) *“Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received.”*

The world often measures value by visibility, who’s on the stage, who gets the credit, and who’s seen doing the work. But Scripture reminds us that our gifts were never meant for the spotlight; they were meant for stewardship. Every ability God has placed inside you is an expression of His grace, entrusted to you so that others might be blessed. We’ve watched saints cook meals, clean sanctuaries, teach children, pray fervently, and show up faithfully, often without titles or recognition. Their service wasn’t loud, but it was powerful. Their gifts didn’t seek attention, but they sustained the church. That kind of service reflects God’s heart. **Today**, ask God how you can steward your gifts with humility and joy.

Day 2 – Bread and Living Water Matthew 4:4 (NRSV) *“But he answered, ‘It is written, “One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.”* Sometimes you can be full and still starving. Full of noise, distractions, and everybody else’s opinions, but starving for the one thing that gives life. Jesus knew that. When He was hungry in the wilderness, He didn’t reach for bread; He reached for the Word. His defense against the enemy wasn’t emotion. It wasn’t personality. It was Scripture. You’ve got access to the same nourishment. The same power. The same promises. So why do we keep reaching for crumbs when we could be feasting on truth? Netflix might numb it. Social media might distract it. But only the Word can fill it. That ache, that confusion, that emotional hunger? God’s Word is the only thing built to satisfy it. **Today**, treat the Word like a meal. Choose a passage, just a few verses, and “eat” it slowly. Read it once in the morning, again at lunch, and again before bed. Ask God: “What truth do You want to nourish me with today?”



Day 3 – Service as Worship Romans 12:1 (NRSV) *“I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.”* Worship is more than a song. It’s in how we live, work, serve, and give. When you serve with love, whether teaching a child, comforting a friend, or helping a neighbor, you are offering worship to God. The sanctuary isn’t the only place where worship happens. Your job site, kitchen, and classroom are holy ground when you serve in His name. **Today**, see your service as worship. Ask God to help you give Him your best heart, hands, and all.

Day 4 – The Beginning 4:10 (NRSV) *“For whoever has despised the day of small things shall rejoice...”* Don’t despise small beginnings or small acts. A note of encouragement. A kind word to a stranger. A quiet prayer for someone in need. These small seeds grow into powerful testimonies. Many of our elders in the Black community taught us this: small daily faithfulness builds legacies. What looks small to you might be life-changing to someone else.

Today, don’t look past the small opportunity God places before you. Embrace it as sacred. Ask, “Lord, what small thing can I do today that brings You glory?”

Day 5 – Service That Honors God Colossians 3:23–24 (NRSV) *“Whatever your task, put yourselves into it, as done for the Lord and not for your masters, since you know that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward; you serve the Lord Christ.”* True worship continues in how we show up every day how we work, how we serve, how we treat people when no one is watching. Scripture reminds us that when we give our best effort, not for applause but for the Lord, our service becomes sacred. Worship looked like sweeping floors before sunrise, cooking meals for repasts, mentoring youth after long workdays, and showing up faithfully week after week. It wasn’t glamorous, but it was holy. **Today**, reframe how you see your service, remembering that when you serve others, you are ultimately serving Christ.

Day 6 – Strength for Servants Isaiah 40:31 (NRSV) *“...but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.”* Serving others can be tiring. Whether you’re raising children, leading in ministry, working long hours, or caring for family, weariness can set in. But God promises renewal. When we lean on Him, He lifts us, strengthens us, and helps us keep going. Our strength comes not from pushing harder but from waiting on Him.

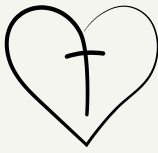
Today, ask God for fresh strength. Rest in Him. Let Him renew you so you can keep serving with joy.

Day 7 – Serve With Joy Psalm 100:2 (NRSV) *“Worship the Lord with gladness; come into his presence with singing.”* Serving Jesus isn’t meant to feel like a burden. Yes, it’s work. But it’s joyful work. We serve because we’re grateful. After all, we’ve been loved first, because it’s a privilege to reflect Him. Today, don’t look past the small opportunity God places before you. Embrace it as sacred. Ask, “Lord, what small thing can I do today that brings You glory?”

Today, ask God to renew your joy in serving. Smile as you serve. Sing as you work. Let your gladness testify to the goodness of the One you serve.

SERVE 301 – Lesson 3 Devotional Series: Serving in Unity

Day 1 – Monday: One Body, Many Parts 1 Corinthians 12:12 (NRSV) *“For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.”* Unity doesn’t mean uniformity. It means *harmony*. Paul compares us to a body because every part matters; no one part can say, “I don’t need you.” Think of the Black church experience from the greeters at the door, to the choir, to the elders in prayer, to the youth stepping up, everyone has a role. And when we move as one, it’s powerful. The Spirit flows. The mission advances. Division weakens; unity strengthens and your part matters, and so does your brother’s or sister’s. Today, thank God for the different gifts and voices around you. **Unity Challenge**, text or call someone in your church or community and express your gratitude for their role. Watch how that builds a connection.



Day 2 – Tuesday: The Strength of Harmony Romans 12:16 (NRSV) *“Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are.”*

Harmony is beautiful in music and necessary in service. Our communities know the power of harmony — from choirs blending voices to families rallying around one another. God calls us to that same spiritual harmony: serving side by side, no matter our background, role, or status. Pride disrupts harmony. Humility keeps it flowing. Where do you need to quiet pride and embrace partnership? Unity invites us to see beyond ourselves for the good of the body.

Unity Challenge: The next time you work on something (at church, work, home), intentionally ask someone else for their input — especially someone you don’t usually partner with. Let them teach or help you.

Day 3 – Wednesday: The Power of “We” Ecclesiastes 4:9 (NRSV) *“Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil.”* In a culture that often praises the individual, Scripture lifts the collective. *We* are stronger than *me*. When we serve together, our impact multiplies. That’s why movements for justice, faith, and community have always relied on us from the church mothers organizing meals to the men fixing up the church building, to the youth banding together to serve the community. Where can you lean into *we* today instead of *me*? **Unity Challenge:** Invite someone to partner with you this week in a small act of service — a neighbor, a coworker, a young person. Model that “we” is stronger.

Day 4 – Thursday: Rooted in One Spirit Ephesians 4:3–4 (NRSV) *“...making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit...”*

Unity takes effort. It doesn’t just happen because we show up at the same place. We must *make every effort* to choose peace over pettiness, grace over grumbling, and patience over pride. The Holy Spirit binds us together, but we must guard that bond. Today, reflect on what threatens unity in your space (pride, assumptions, grudges?) and ask God to help you guard the unity He’s building.

Unity Challenge: Choose one way to be a peacemaker today, apologizing first, listening longer, or letting go of a minor offense.

Day 5 – Friday: When One Rejoices, We All Rejoice 1 Corinthians 12:26 (NRSV) *“If one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.”*

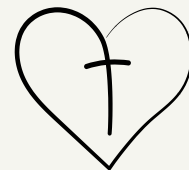
Unity calls us to celebrate one another’s victories. Sometimes that’s easy; sometimes it’s hard. In a community, envy and comparison can sneak in. But when we truly grasp that we’re one body, we rejoice when a sister is lifted, or a brother is blessed, because their win is *our* win. Today, choose to celebrate someone else’s success as if it were your own.

Unity Challenge: Share or post a word of encouragement celebrating someone else’s service, gift, or victory. Make their win visible.

Day 6 – Saturday: No Room for Division Mark 3:25 (NRSV) *“And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand.”*

Division weakens. That’s true in families, churches, and movements. The enemy loves to sow division because a divided house can’t stand firm. But unity? Unity withstands storms. Consider how our ancestors endured oppression together. Unity isn’t optional; it’s survival. It’s power. Today, pray: *Lord, help me be a builder of unity, not a breaker of it.*

Unity Challenge: Identify one minor division you can help heal, maybe between friends, family members, or church members. Take the first step toward reconciliation.



Day 7 – Sunday: The World Will See John 17:23 (NRSV) *“I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me...”*

Jesus prayed for our unity, not just for our sake, but as a witness to the world. When we love and serve together, we demonstrate to others what God’s kingdom looks like. Our unity testifies that Jesus is honest, His love is powerful, and His church is alive. Our divided world needs to see this. Today, ask God to use your service to be a testimony of unity.

Unity Challenge: Invite someone different from you — in age, background, or role — to pray or serve with you this week.

SERVE 301 – Lesson 4 Devotional Series: Serving with Integrity

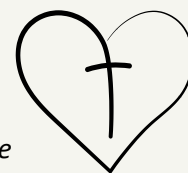
Day 1 – Monday: Serving for God’s Eyes Colossians 3:23–24 (NRSV) *“Whatever your task, put yourselves into it, as done for the Lord and not for your masters, since you know that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward; you serve the Lord Christ.”* Integrity means we serve as if God is our supervisor because He is. It’s easy to give our best when people are watching, but real integrity shows up in the unseen. Think of those elders in our churches who cleaned, cooked, or prayed in private, not for recognition but for love of God and people. They understood: service is for God’s glory, not applause.

Integrity Action: Choose one task today (at work, home, or church) to do secretly, as an offering to God. Write a small note to yourself that says, *“For God’s eyes only.”* Keep it in your pocket as a reminder.

Day 2 – Tuesday: Integrity When It’s Inconvenient Proverbs 10:9 (NRSV) *“Whoever walks in integrity walks securely, but whoever follows perverse ways will be found out.”* Integrity costs something. It might mean telling the truth when it’s easier to cover up. It might mean keeping a promise when you’re tired. Integrity isn’t about convenience, it’s about character. God calls us to walk securely, knowing we’ve done right, even when no one else knows the sacrifice. **Integrity Action:** Write down one way you will choose integrity today, even if it’s inconvenient (e.g., finishing a task well, admitting a mistake, keeping a commitment). Pray for strength to follow through.

Day 3 – Wednesday: The Same Inside and Out Psalm 139:23–24 (NRSV) *“Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my thoughts. See if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.”* Integrity means your public and private lives match. We all have areas where the Spirit invites us to grow, places where what people see and what God sees don’t entirely line up. But God, in His mercy, reveals and refines. This prayer is an invitation for God to do that work in us. **Integrity Action:** Take a moment to be still today. Write a short prayer or record a voice memo asking God to search your heart and guide your steps. Let that prayer stay with you throughout your day.

Day 4 – Thursday: Little Things Matter Luke 16:10 (NRSV) *“Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much; and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much.”* Big integrity is built in small moments. The way we handle little tasks, small promises, small choices, that’s what shapes our character over time. Think of the people in our communities who gained trust over the years of small, faithful acts. That’s integrity at work. **Integrity Action:** Pick one small thing you will be intentional about today (e.g., returning a call, being on time, cleaning up after yourself). Write it on a sticky note as a reminder: *“Small faithfulness matters.”*



Day 5 – Friday: Serving Without Spotlight Matthew 6:1 (NRSV) *“Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven.”* Serving without seeking attention protects our integrity. Jesus reminds us that service meant for show loses its reward. When we serve humbly, seeking only God’s approval, our reward comes from Him. There’s freedom in knowing we’re not performing, we’re offering. **Integrity Action:** Do one kind act anonymously today. No credit, no spotlight, just service between you and God.

Day 6 – Saturday: God Sees the Heart 1 Samuel 16:7 (NRSV) *“...for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.”* Appearances may fool people, but God looks deeper. Integrity isn’t about how polished we look, it’s about what’s real inside. Our goal is to have a heart that honors God, even when no one else notices or understands. **Integrity Action:** Journal or voice record this question today: *“What does God see when He looks at my heart?”* Let the Spirit speak to you as you reflect.

Day 7 – Sunday: Integrity as Worship

Romans 12:1 (NRSV)

“...present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.”

Serving with integrity is worship. When we offer our lives, the seen and unseen parts as a sacrifice to God, that’s true worship. Integrity turns ordinary work into a holy offering. It’s not perfection; it’s a commitment to give God our best.

Integrity Action: Before you begin your day, whisper this prayer: *“Lord, I offer You my service today as worship. Let my actions honor You.”* Write it somewhere visible as a reminder.

SERVE 301 – Lesson 5 Devotional Series: Serving Through Trials

Day 1 – Monday: Joy in the Storm

James 1:2–3 (NRSV)

“My brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of any kind, consider it nothing but joy, because you know that the testing of your faith produces endurance.”

Joy in trials? That can feel like a hard ask. But James isn’t talking about joy *for* the trial — he’s talking about joy *in* it. Joy because we know God is working. Joy because endurance is growing. In our communities, our ancestors knew this joy. It was the joy that sang spirituals in the fields, the joy that marched for justice with heads held high. That joy was their strength, even when the storm raged.

Today, remember: the storm won’t last, but the strength God builds in you will. Your trial is not the end it’s a training ground.

Activity: Draw a small storm cloud on a sticky note or in your journal. Inside the cloud, write one thing God is growing in you through a trial.

Action Plan: Pray this simple prayer throughout your day: *“Lord, help me see Your purpose in this storm.”*



Day 2 – Tuesday: Serving While Weary

Isaiah 40:29 (NRSV)

“He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless.”

Serving during trials can drain us. When you’re facing family struggles, health issues, or financial challenges, it’s easy to feel like you have nothing left to give. But God promises strength for the weary. He doesn’t ask us to serve from what we don’t have. He fills us so we can give. Remember the church mothers who prayed all night but still showed up with food for someone in need? They weren’t superhuman. They were Spirit-filled. God will give you strength for today’s service, just ask.

Activity: Take three deep breaths. On each exhale, whisper: *“God, fill me with Your strength.”*

Action Plan: Identify a straightforward act of service today (e.g., a kind word, a small help at home or work). Offer it as worship, not obligation.

Day 3 – Wednesday: Hope That Doesn’t Quit

Romans 5:3–4 (NRSV)

“And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope...”

Hope is forged in hard places. Our ancestors’ hope wasn’t naive; it was tested in the fire. Real hope endures because it’s built on God’s promises, not circumstances. Trials don’t cancel your call to serve. They deepen it. They refine it. God can use your hard season to grow hope in you, and through you for others. Today, let hope rise as you serve, knowing that God sees, God strengthens, and God is faithful.

Activity: Write the word *HOPE* somewhere visible today, a sticky note, your planner, or your lock screen. Let it remind you to keep going.

Action Plan: Encourage one person who’s going through a trial. A text, a prayer, a small help, let your hope lift theirs.

Day 4 – Thursday: Trials Are Testimonies in the Making

2 Corinthians 4:17 (NRSV)

“For this slight momentary affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all measure...”

What feels heavy now is working for something glorious later. Your trial isn’t wasted. The story God is writing through your suffering will encourage someone else. When people see how you continue to serve, love, and trust even when it’s hard, they’ll see Jesus. Today, trust that God is turning your test into a testimony.

Activity: Jot down a short phrase of your testimony-in-progress (e.g., *“God is keeping me”* or *“Still standing by His grace”*).

Action Plan: Share that phrase with someone today in conversation, text, or post.

Day 5 – Friday: God’s Power in Our Weakness

2 Corinthians 12:9 (NRSV) *“...My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness.”* We

don’t have to fake strength.

God meets us in our weakness. That’s where His power shines brightest. When we serve during trials, people don’t see our strength; they see His. That’s what makes our service powerful. It points to Him. Today, stop trying to be strong on your own. Let God’s strength carry you. **Activity:** Whisper this affirmation three times today: *“Your grace is enough, Lord.”*

Action Plan: Before any act of service today, pause and pray: *“God, work through my weakness.”*



Day 6 – Saturday: Keep Your Eyes on the Finish

Hebrews 12:1–2 (NRSV) *“...and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith...”*

Serving through trials is like running uphill. It’s tiring, but the view at the top is worth it. Don’t quit. Keep your eyes on Jesus. He finished the most challenging race of all, and He’ll help you finish yours. Every step of faithful service, even in the struggle, brings you closer to His reward. Today, stay focused. Jesus is with you, and He’s cheering you on.

Activity: Draw or imagine a small finish line. Picture Jesus at the end, waiting and smiling.

Action Plan: Write or say: *“I will not quit. Jesus is my strength.”* Return to it whenever you feel weary.

Day 7 – Sunday: Worship in the Wilderness

Habakkuk 3:17–18 (NRSV) *“Though the fig tree does not blossom, and no fruit is on the vines... yet I will rejoice in the Lord; I will exult in the God of my salvation.”*

Sometimes trials strip away what we thought we needed. But like the prophet Habakkuk, we can still choose to rejoice. That kind of worship confuses the enemy. It strengthens our soul. It’s what our ancestors did in chains, in marches, in hardships, and worshiped anyway. Today, make your service an act of worship, no matter what’s missing.

Activity: Play a song of praise today out loud or quietly in your spirit and let it lift your heart.

Action Plan: Serve today with a smile or a kind word. Let your joy be part of your worship.

SERVE 301 – Lesson 6 Devotional Series: Serving with Compassion

Day 1 – Monday: See People Like Jesus Does

Matthew 9:36 (NRSV)

“When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.”

Compassion begins with sight, how we see people. Jesus didn’t just glance at the crowd; He *saw* their need. He saw their struggle. He saw beyond the surface. In our communities, we’re called to do the same: to look past attitudes, appearances, and differences, and know the child of God underneath. That’s where compassion takes root. Today, slow down and ask God to help you see someone the way He does. Let that vision move you to kindness.

Activity: Draw an eye in your journal or on a sticky note. Inside it, write: *“Lord, help me see.”*

Action Plan: Make eye contact with someone today and greet them sincerely a small act that says, *I see you.*

Day 2 – Tuesday: Clothe Yourself with Compassion

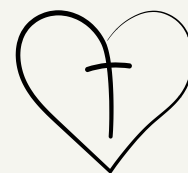
Colossians 3:12 (NRSV)

“As God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience.”

Paul tells us to *put on* compassion like we put on clothes. That means it’s a daily choice, not just a feeling. Some days it fits easily, like your favorite hoodie. Some days it feels tight because you’re tired or frustrated. But every day, it’s what we’re called to wear as God’s people. And it looks good on us. Today, choose to put on compassion intentionally before frustration, before judgment, before self-interest.

Activity: Write or say this as you get dressed: *“Lord, today I choose to clothe myself in compassion.”*

Action Plan: Pause before reacting today in traffic, at work, at home, and respond with kindness.



Day 3 – Wednesday: Love Without Limits

Luke 10:33 (NRSV)

“But a Samaritan, while traveling, came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity.”

The Samaritan didn't stop to ask if the man was from his community, his circle, or his belief system. Compassion doesn't check credentials; it just *acts*. In the Black church and broader community, we've seen that spirit of compassion: feeding neighbors, helping the hurting, lifting the fallen, no questions asked. Today, let your compassion cross lines. Don't ask. *Do they deserve it?* Just love.

Activity: Draw a simple heart and write the words: *“No limits.”*

Action Plan: Do one small kindness today for someone outside your usual circle.

Day 4 – Thursday: The Compassionate Servant's Strength Galatians 6:9 (NRSV)

“So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up.”

Serving with compassion is one of the greatest callings God places on our lives, but it can also be one of the most exhausting. There are days when it feels as though your efforts go unnoticed, your kindness is unappreciated, or your love makes no real difference. Yet in those moments, God whispers through His Word: don't give up. Every act of compassion is a seed. When you listen with patience, when you extend forgiveness, when you show mercy to the undeserving, you are planting seeds of righteousness. Though you may not see the fruit immediately, heaven assures you that nothing done in love is wasted. God is the Master Gardener. He knows when and how to bring the harvest. Look back over history, and even in your own life, you'll find testimonies of God multiplying small seeds of service into an abundant harvest. The civil rights leaders who marched in love reaped justice for generations to come. Mothers, fathers, grandparents, and mentors who quietly served their families left behind legacies of faith and resilience. And in your own walk, every hidden act of compassion has reached further than you realize. So today, instead of growing weary, ask God for a fresh outpouring of strength. His Spirit renews what your body and mind cannot sustain alone. Let His joy be your fuel, His promise your anchor, and His love your reason to keep pressing forward.

Activity: Write down the word *“harvest”* somewhere visible. Let it remind you that your compassion will bear fruit.

Action Plan: Encourage someone else today who's weary in their service. A simple *“keep going”* can make a big difference.

Day 5 – Friday: Mercy That Mirrors God

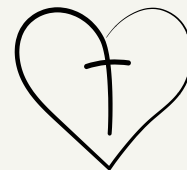
Micah 6:8 (NRSV)

“...and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?”

Compassion is mercy in action. When we serve with compassion, we reflect God's heart to the world. That's why it's not optional; it's part of what God *requires*. It's how we walk with Him, how we love people, how we live out our faith. Today, let your compassion point someone to God.

Activity: On a notecard or sticky note, write: *“Required: Justice. Kindness. Humility.”* Keep it where you can easily see it.

Action Plan: Offer mercy where it's hard today, forgive a minor offense, or respond gently to frustration.



Day 6 – Saturday: Compassion in Action

1 John 3:18 (NRSV)

“Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action.”

Compassion that stays in our hearts but doesn't move our hands is incomplete. Love has to *do*. Whether that means showing up for a friend, cooking a meal, or simply offering a listening ear, compassionate acts can change lives. Today, look for a chance to move from feeling to doing.

Activity: Write: *“Love = action”* somewhere you'll see it today.

Action Plan: Choose one small act of compassion and do it before the day ends. Don't delay.

Day 7 – Sunday: Compassion as Our Legacy

Proverbs 19:17 (NRSV)

“Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the Lord, and will be repaid in full.”

Compassion leaves a legacy. It outlives us. The kindness we sow today in our families, churches, and communities will bless generations to come. That's how our ancestors made it through: compassion wasn't just a feeling; it was their survival, their strength, and their gift to the future. Today, think of your service as part of the legacy you're building.

Activity: Say out loud: *“Lord, let my compassion outlive me.”*

Action Plan: Think of a young person you can encourage today. Let them see compassion in action.

SERVE 301 – Lesson 7 Devotional Series: Serving with Excellence

Day 1 – Monday: Excellence for an Audience of One

Colossians 3:23 (NRSV)

“Whatever your task, put yourselves into it, as done for the Lord and not for your masters.”

Service excellence isn't about showing off or trying to be perfect for people. It's about offering our best to the One who gave us everything. When we serve for God's eyes, not man's praise, our work becomes worship. In Black communities, we've seen that spirit in folks scrubbing church floors, cooking for dozens, and singing in the choir not for applause, but because they saw their service as a holy act. Today, check your “why.” Offer your work to God, whether anyone notices or not.

Activity: Write at the top of your planner or to-do list: *“For God's glory.”*

Action Plan: Do one task today with extra care, as if presenting it to God.

Day 2 – Tuesday: Small Acts, Big Impact

Ecclesiastes 9:10 (NRSV)

“Whatever your hand finds to do, do with your might...”

It's easy to give our best to big things the presentation, the project, the performance. But God calls us to excellence even in the small. The way we treat the clerk, clean up after ourselves, or help a child with homework all matter. Our ancestors taught us this: small daily faithfulness builds strong lives and strong communities. Today, ask God to help you give your best in small things.

Activity: Write *“Excellence in the small”* on a sticky note.

Action Plan: Choose one small, often-overlooked task and do it with intention and care today.



Day 3 – Wednesday: Faithful with Little, Trusted with More

Matthew 25:21 (NRSV)

“Well done, good and trustworthy servant; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things...”

God watches how we handle what’s in our hands now. Excellence in small assignments positions us for greater ones. Our service is like a seed tended faithfully; it grows into a tree that bears much fruit. The question is not, *Is this important?* But am I faithful to it? Today, be faithful where you are.

Creative Activity: Draw a tiny seed on paper. Next to it, write: *“Faithful in little.”*

Action Plan: Identify one small responsibility you’ve been tempted to rush or skip and give it your best today.

Day 4 – Thursday: Serve with Excellence, Not Perfection 2 Corinthians 12:9 (NRSV)

“My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness.” Excellence is not perfection. It’s giving your best, relying on God’s grace where you fall short. The world chases perfection to impress people. We pursue excellence to honor God, knowing our weaknesses, and let His strength shine. Release the pressure. Let grace cover your effort. Today, rest in the truth that God is pleased with your best, not your perfection.

Activity: Write this affirmation: *“Excellence, not perfection. Grace covers me.”*

Action Plan: When you mess up or fall short today, stop. Breathe. Whisper, *“Lord, I trust Your grace.”* Then keep going

Day 5 – Friday: Excellence in Love 1 Corinthians 16:14 (NRSV) “Let all that you do be done in love.”

Excellence is more than skill or effort, it’s the spirit behind what we do. If our service is sharp but unkind, it falls short. True excellence flows from love: love for God, love for people, love for the work itself. That’s what makes it beautiful. That’s what makes it powerful. Today, let love fuel your excellence.

Activity: On a slip of paper, write: *“Excellence = Love in action.”* Keep it in your pocket.

Action Plan: Serve today with a smile, with patience, with gentleness — in big tasks and small.

Day 6 – Saturday: Excellence is Contagious

Titus 2:7 (NRSV)

“Show yourself in all respects a model of good works, and in your teaching show integrity, gravity, and sound speech.”

Excellence inspires others. When we serve well, we model what faithfulness looks like. Think of the people who taught you what good work looks like — that elder who never cut corners, that teacher who gave their best, that pastor who prepared well. Our service sets the tone for others.

Today, be the example someone else needs to see.

Creative Activity: Write the name of one person who modeled excellence to you. Thank God for them.

Action Plan: Choose one young person or peer to encourage today: *“I see how well you’re doing keep it up.”*

Day 7 – Sunday: Serving with Excellence as Worship

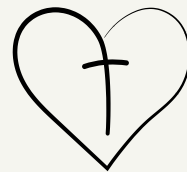
Romans 12:1 (NRSV)

“...present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.”

When we serve with excellence, it becomes worship. It’s not just about the job, it’s about offering ourselves to God in every detail, big or small. Our work becomes a song of praise, our effort a sweet offering. That transforms even the ordinary into holy ground. Today, let your service be a form of worship.

Activity: Whisper as you begin your work today: *“This is for You, Lord.”*

Action Plan: Before you end the day, thank God for the strength and grace He gave you to serve well



SERVE 301 – Lesson 8 Devotional Series: Empowered to Serve Others

Day 1 – Monday: The Source of Our Strength

Acts 1:8 (NRSV)

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses...”

You don’t serve alone. The Spirit of God lives in you, fills you, and strengthens you. The power that helped our ancestors endure and build, the power that raised Jesus from the grave — that same power fuels your service. When you feel weak, overwhelmed, or unqualified, remember: *it’s not by your strength, but His.* Today, ask the Holy Spirit to fill you afresh as you step into your work.

Activity: Write: *“The Spirit empowers me.”* Keep it visible today.

Action Plan: Before starting your first task today, pause and pray: *“Holy Spirit, strengthen me for this work.”*

Day 2 – Tuesday: God Works Beyond Our Limits

Ephesians 3:20 (NRSV)

“Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine...”

God’s power doesn’t stop at our limitations. Where we see barriers, He sees opportunities. When we offer what we have, God does more than we dreamed possible. Think of the times your “little” turned into someone’s breakthrough; that’s God’s power at work. Today, trust God to do more through your service than you can see.

Activity: Draw a small circle on paper. Around it, write: *“God can do more.”*

Action Plan: Take one step today that feels a little bigger than your comfort zone. Trust God with the outcome.

Day 3 – Wednesday: Boldness from the Spirit

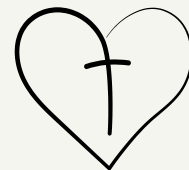
2 Timothy 1:7 (NRSV)

“For God did not give us a spirit of cowardice, but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline.”

Fear will try to stop us from serving. But God gives us boldness, not arrogance, but Spirit-filled courage. Our communities have always known what it means to serve boldly: to speak up, step out, and show up, even when it’s hard. That same Spirit fuels you today. Today, ask for courage to do what God has called you to do.

Activity: Write or whisper: *“I serve with courage”* three times today.

Action Plan: Identify one place where you’ve hesitated to serve — and take a small, bold step forward today.



Day 4 – Thursday: Strength in Our Weakness

2 Corinthians 12:9 (NRSV)

“My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness.”

We don't have to hide our weaknesses. God meets us there. His power shines through when we acknowledge our need for Him. When we serve while weary, unsure, or stretched thin, we give God space to work in ways we couldn't on our own. And that's where testimony grows. Today, lean on God's power instead of your own.

Activity: Write: *“Your grace is enough.”* Say it whenever you feel overwhelmed.

Action Plan: When you feel tired or uncertain today, stop and pray: *“God, show Your power in my weakness.”*

Day 5 – Friday: The Spirit Equips Us for Every Good Work

Hebrews 13:21 (NRSV)

“...make you complete in everything good so that you may do his will, working among us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ...”

God doesn't just send us, He equips us. Whatever the work is, whatever the need is, the Spirit gives us what we need in that moment: wisdom, strength, patience, compassion. You have what you need because God is with you. Today, step into your service knowing God is working through you.

Activity: On a sticky note, write: *“Equipped by God.”* Place it where you can easily see it.

Action Plan: Before a task today, pray: *“God, equip me for this.”* Notice how He provides.

Day 6 – Saturday: Empowered to Lift Others

Galatians 6:2 (NRSV)

“Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.”

Empowerment isn't just for us, it's for lifting others. When we serve, we help shoulder the weight someone else carries. And when we do that, we reflect the heart of Jesus. That's real strength, strength that serves. Today, look for someone whose load you can help carry.

Activity: Draw two stick figures, one helping the other up. Label it: *“Empowered to lift.”*

Action Plan: Offer help to someone today, a ride, a hand, a listening ear.

Day 7 – Sunday: Empowered to Be a Witness

Acts 1:8 (NRSV) *“...and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”* Your service tells a story. Every act of love, kindness, or sacrifice points to Jesus. That's what it means to be a witness. The Spirit empowers us not only to work but also to represent Christ wherever we go, whether at home, at work, at school, at church, or beyond. Today, let your service tell the story of God's goodness.

Activity: Say aloud as you begin the day: *“Let my life witness to You.”*

Action Plan: At the end of the day, reflect: *How did my service point to Jesus today?* Write or pray your answer.

