

## SERVICE

*Servanthood • Others • Supportive*

## Are you feeling...

### *Blessed with gifts? Helpful? Unavailable?*

## WHAT IS SERVICE?

It is said that the best thing about Bible study isn't learning it but living it out. Consider the discipline of service as a part of that living. Service involves giving up some of our own time for the sake of helping others and The Salvation Army's mission. This can take many different forms. It might involve volunteering at the food bank or soup kitchen, street ministry, visiting seniors or collecting at an intersection for the Red Shield Appeal. It could also be supporting or leading a church program, such as a Bible study, children and youth ministry, participating in the leadership team, playing in a music group or simply helping keep the church clean.

Service is a calling for all Christ's followers (see John 13:1-7). Christ's great desire is for us all to experience the blessing and learning that comes with the discipline of service. Our relationship with the Lord will be strengthened through private prayer and Bible reading, but this is only part of the experience of knowing God. Christ calls us to experience him through the acts of serving and loving others. We can't learn this by simply reading a book or listening to a sermon; we must experience it for ourselves.

## WHEN DO I APPLY THIS DISCIPLINE?

To get started, I think about what I am good at, what gifts God has blessed me with and even what I enjoy doing. I then ask myself: How can I use these things to serve others?

I could read 1 Corinthians 12 to help me understand that I and everyone else have an important place of service in the body of Christ. I could discuss this with my officer/leader or a close friend to determine where my gifts may be best used. Sometimes the Holy Spirit calls us to serve and trust beyond our comfort zone, to opportunities where we experience the special measure and equipping of God's grace at work in us.

A word of caution about this discipline: don't over-stretch yourself.

## READY TO PRACTISE SERVICE?

1. Seek out opportunities where you could serve.
2. Commit to a particular service for a period of time.
3. At the end of your commitment, reflect on your experience for the purpose of growing in your service.

## NOTES