

In Ephesians 2:10 believers are called "God's workmanship" or "masterpieces" designed for good works. How does this ease concerns you have about serving God?

How do you respond to the idea that God has good works planned in advance for you to do? What do you think some of them are?

What ways have you found to give God the credit when you serve in His name?

REFLECT

Rob gave three reasons believers hesitate to serve: we feel incompetent; we feel unworthy; we feel we've done enough. Have you ever had to deal with any of these feelings? How would you encourage someone who thinks in one of these ways?

RESPOND

Take Two: Pass out two pieces of paper to each person. On one, ask group members to write down an idea for ways the group might serve each other. (Ex: "Babysit so parents can go out." or "Help paint.") On the other piece of paper write down a service project the group could do together. Read these aloud and save for future service ideas.



We are serving...

1 Peter 4:10-11

Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. If you speak, you should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If you serve, you should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.

Don't buy into the lies that say you are either unqualified or unworthy to serve on a team at church, or that you've outlasted your usefulness to God.

Mark 12:30-31

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength." The second is this: "Love your neighbor as yourself." There is no commandment greater than these.

onward in service

LIFE GROUP STUDY

Proverbs 11:24-25

One person gives freely, yet gains even more;
another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty.
A generous person will prosper;
whoever refreshes others will be refreshed.

with diligence...

Galatians 6:9

Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.

+ We persevere.
+ We do whatever it takes to fulfill our mission.
+ We take the next step.

Romans 12:11

Never be lazy in your work, but serve the Lord enthusiastically.

and excellence.

Colossians 3:23

Work hard and cheerfully at whatever you do, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people.

+ We are ever-improving.
+ We do our best; Jesus deserves no less.
+ We follow Jesus' example.

Matthew 20:26-28

...whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave—just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.

RELATE

What motivates you to take time to serve others?

Share a time you saw God do more than you expected through your service. Were you outside your comfort zone. How did it go?

What principle, insight or idea from this sermon was especially important for you?

READ

Ephesians 2:4-10; James 2:14-19

What was our condition and destiny before God saved us? After? Why is it important for believers to keep this reality in mind? (Eph. 2:4-7)

What is the relationship between salvation and good works? What negative attitudes can result when we think we have earned God's favor toward us? (Eph. 2:8-9; James 2:17)

Why is it not credible to say we have faith in Jesus and yet not give our time and resources to help others in practical, material ways?

What attitudes or issues keep you from serving diligently and with excellence?