



LOVE
YOUR
CHURCH



serve

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

STEVE ROBINSON

SESSION 1

1. “God’s command to let his people go [in Exodus 8:1] was for the purpose of serving him” (p 16). Is that how you usually think of life as one of God’s people?
2. *Read 1 Peter 2:9-10.* What do these verses remind us about who we are as a church? How should this shape how we relate to God and to each other?
3. “Before you figure out what it means to serve ... you need to know exactly who it is you are serving. You need to know who you are and what your purpose is” (p 24-25). How would you sum up who you are serving, who you are, and what your purpose is, based on what you have read?
4. *Read John 13:3-17, 34-35.* How does Jesus’ example here shape our view of what it means to serve one another? What most challenges or inspires you here?
5. Our call is to serve God, his church and his world. Which of those do you think you most focus on as a church and individually? (Think about preaching, prayers, giving and time.) Is there one which might be at risk of being de-emphasised?

SESSION 2

1. How do you respond to the idea that “loving the people” isn’t enough to keep us serving?
2. *Read Mark 10:35-45.* What would James and John’s “why” have been when it came to serving others? What other misguided “whys” do you think are common?
3. Can you think of a time when you’ve wondered, “Why am I doing this?” What circumstances make it difficult to serve?
4. *Read Romans 12:1-2 and Philippians 2:3-7.* What does a Jesus-like humility look like for us today? Do you think you can grow in that mindset?
5. What do you think your attitude tends to be towards serving as part of your church? Has this chapter reinforced or reshaped that attitude in any way?

SESSION 3

1. Can you think of times when service has been a real joy to you? How much of the time does it feel that way?
2. *Read Romans 12:3.* “Remember that you are not the golden child in the kingdom of God and your church—God is not lucky to have you on his team, and you have not earned anything that you have. But, at the same time, remember that you are God’s child, even when you feel that everything around you is saying the opposite” (p 44). Can you think of times when you’ve forgotten one or other of these truths? What goes wrong in our serving when we make one mistake or the other?
3. The chapter lists four aspects of Jesus’ service: love, humility, suffering and joy. Which of these aspects do you find most striking? Can you think of an example of what each of these things might look like for us today?
4. Read through the thoughts Steve lists on page 52. Do you recognise any of them as something you’re tempted to feel? What truth about Jesus would help you defeat that?
5. How can you encourage each other to think more about Jesus’ love than your service? How will you remind each other that God loves to say, “Well done” when we serve out of love for him and for others?

SESSION 4

1. “How has, and how is, God shaping and preparing me for service to him and the church?” (p 62). How would you answer this question yourself?
2. In what ways do you tend to define “what you bring to the table”, either positively or negatively? What impact does this have on how you see yourself and your part in your church?
3. “The only living sacrifice I can give is my life, not someone else’s. My life, with all its imperfections, weaknesses, experiences, moments and gifts. What you bring to the table of the kingdom is you!” (p 58). Do you need to be liberated, encouraged or humbled by this?
4. *Read 2 Corinthians 12:9-10.* What do you think it means that God’s “power is made perfect in weakness”? Perhaps you can think of some examples of people who have felt weak (whether because of physical limitations, past experiences or something else) yet have served God—how do their lives illustrate this passage?
5. How can you foster a culture in your church where weakness is not seen as something to be resented and a barrier to service, but instead as a way to serve in God’s strength and for his glory?

SESSION 5

1. *Read Romans 12:4-6.* Why is this an exciting vision of a church?
2. How do you think your church is doing in terms of people's willingness to serve? Are there ways in which too little is expected, or too much is demanded? What could you do to foster a healthy sense of being one body in Christ?
3. Reading the list of gifts that God gives his people on pages 70-72, which are the ones your church is great at encouraging, fostering and celebrating? Are there any that you think might be underemphasised or undervalued? What could you do about this?
4. Spend some time in self-examination (see page 80) and thinking about your experience (p 80-81), and share your thoughts together.
5. In pairs or threes (aiming to be in a group with people who know you fairly well), ask each other the questions on page 82.
6. Think about this book as a whole and what you have taken from it. What are some encouraging truths that you want to remember? What are some concrete changes you want to make (or pray about) in your life?

SESSION 6

1. How does the “problem of what’s next” tend to present itself in your lives or in your church?
2. *Read Titus 2:2-4.* How have you seen these lived out, or how have you benefitted personally from these kinds of relationships?
3. What does it mean to “serve in God’s strength”? What do you think you might do more of, or do differently, if you consciously rely on God’s strength and not your own?
4. Share two or three encouragements about who Jesus is and who we are as his people that you are going to take from this book.
5. Share two or three concrete changes you want to make (or pray about) as a result of reading this book.