



## Sermon-Based Discussion Guide

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### Guest Speaker: Jim Wideman August 28, 2011

#### SCRIPTURE

##### Philippians 4:19

And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus.

##### 1 Peter 2:9

<sup>9</sup> But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

##### Ephesians 4:11-12

<sup>11</sup> So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, <sup>12</sup> to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up

##### 1 Peter 5:2-3

<sup>2</sup> Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, watching over them—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve; <sup>3</sup> not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock.

##### 1 Corinthians 12:28-30

<sup>28</sup> And God has placed in the church first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, of helping, of guidance, and of different kinds of tongues. <sup>29</sup> Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? <sup>30</sup> Do all have gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret?

#### ENGAGE

As Christians we are to serve others in our daily lives as well at church. Which do you feel is more important, serving those in the world or our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ? What about those visiting the church who may be searching for a home and relationship with the Lord?

#### DISCUSS

1. Usually at church we typically here the constant plea for workers. What are your thoughts on that? Do you get a sense of guilt or dread when they start asking? Do you feel like you're not qualified to help in the areas that you are being asked? The constant plea means the church is growing and there is great need for everyone to get involved to sustain the growth and the numbers coming to know Christ.
2. Brother Jim made the statement the happiest people seem to be those who have learned to serve in the church or others. Do you think his statement is true? If you serve or have served in the past are you a happier more content person? Why do you think it is that people who serve seem to be happier?

3. When we serve the Kingdom it is a mutual reward. As we look to serve others we are fulfilling scripture and being a blessing to others who have a need. But at the same time we ourselves get a blessing in return. Share a time when you have found yourself just as blessed by the act of serving others.
4. One verse that tends to be used in a more negative light than positive is “You reap what you sow” but in reality it should be one of the most positive verses when it comes to serving and our daily actions. If we practice what the Bible teaches us about serving then we should be sowing wonderful crops to be harvested when we meet our Lord and Savior. What are you sowing for the harvest? If you are not sowing as much as you’d like what are some ways you can get started?

## YOUR NEXT STEP

Pray about where God can place you to serve to the best of your abilities. Be willing to say “YES” as a first step and allow God to stretch you and to trust Him to guide your path to serving.

## CHILDREN’S TIME

Did you know when your parents fix you dinner or wash your clothes that is an act of service they are performing for you. What other things do your parents do for you? Just like your parents doing things to help you through life we are to reach out and help others, to serve them. In what ways can you help others?

Can you think of some ways that you can help others at school or in your neighborhood? What about your teachers at school? When we take time to help others we are also helping ourselves learn contentment and joy that comes with help make somebody else day better.