



Sermon-based reflections connect the week to the weekend!

Dig deeper into the talk each week, in a small group or independently. Challenge yourself to see how the message actually makes sense and applies to your everyday life.

Message Info: Guide-Rails - We Kick In Instead of Eat Up, 11/12/23 - Our third value in this series is about serving. We're not just talking about checking a box on our to-do list. We're taking a magnifying glass to this topic, and looking at the hurdles (because it's not always easy) and the deep benefits (because it's always beneficial) of giving of ourselves. And overall, why it's so important. (*Passages: Luke 10:25-37, Matthew 20:28, Colossians 3:17*)

Discussion Questions: Take your time and dig into these questions.

What is the culture we live in like? Do we have to make a decision each day to participate, or is it a passive choice? What value is placed on serving? Does it match or conflict with how Jesus lived?

Read Luke 10:25-37. What stands out to you in this passage. Why?

The law expert's pride complicated Jesus' simple response, and distracted from the truth. Instead of looking inward to evaluate his own heart, the expert was more concerned with what was required of him. He was really asking how far he needed to extend himself and how much he would have to give in order to love. How can we choose a more selfless mindset? What obstacles are there? What changes can we make to practice it?

Jesus, who "did not come to be served, but to serve," (Matthew 20:28) should be our model. While our goal should not be to gratify ourselves, it's okay to acknowledge the many benefits of serving. It's a mood and esteem booster. Serving alleviates stress and helps us feel established, belonging, and purpose. Friendships develop through serving, and it can even contribute to a longer life. Have you experienced any of these benefits? Is there room for more of these positive effects in your life?

Let's choose to contribute over consume; evaluate our intake versus outtake. What we add to the room, whether that room is at work, home, or anywhere else. Let's practice gratitude by using our God-given gifts, that were made to be shared. We won't regret the impact a culture of contribution will have on our lives. What can you add? Will God continue to take care of you?

Weekly Challenge: Prayerfully seek new opportunities to serve!