

## Group Guide: "Cracking the Code" - Live to Serve

Pastor Todd delivered a message on serving as part of the 'Cracking the Code' series, emphasizing that community is central to Hilton Head Island Community Church's identity. He addressed the misconception that their beautiful, affluent community doesn't need service, revealing statistics about poverty, housing crises, and food insecurity affecting over 50% of local students. Using Mark 10:43-45, Todd taught that Jesus redefined greatness as serving others, not seeking position or power. He challenged the congregation with three key truths: serving is the way of greatness, serving the community is who they are as a church, and serving opens hearts to Jesus. The message concluded with practical applications to start serving at home, show up where there's need, and live an interruptible life like Jesus did.

### Intro Prayer

Heavenly Father, as we gather to discuss Your call to serve, we ask that You open our hearts to what You want to teach us today. Help us to set aside our own agendas and distractions, and make us receptive to Your Spirit's leading. Give us humble hearts that are willing to be challenged and changed. May we see the needs around us through Your eyes and respond with the love of Christ. Prepare us to not just hear Your word, but to live it out in our daily lives. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

### Ice Breaker

What's one simple act of service someone did for you recently that made your day better, even if it seemed small to them?

### Key Verses

- Mark 10:43-45
- Galatians 6:10
- Matthew 5:16

### Questions

- How does Jesus' definition of greatness in Mark 10:43-45 challenge our culture's view of success and achievement?
- Pastor Todd mentioned that behind the beautiful facade of our community, there are real needs. What are some specific needs you've noticed in our local area?
- What does it mean practically to 'live an interruptible life' like Jesus did? How can we balance our responsibilities with being available to serve?
- The message emphasized that serving should start at home. What are some ways we can better serve our own families before expanding to the community?
- How does serving others help people see Jesus? Can you share an example of when someone's service opened your heart to spiritual things?
- What holds us back from serving more - time, fear, not knowing where to start, or something else? How can we overcome these barriers?
- Pastor Todd said we should be 'the first call' in our community when help is needed. What would it look like for our church to have that kind of reputation?
- How can we move from serving only during organized church events to making service a regular part of our individual lives?

## Life Application

This week, identify one specific person or family in your immediate circle (home, neighborhood, workplace) who has a practical need you could meet. Take action to serve them without being asked, and do so in a way that points glory to God rather than drawing attention to yourself. Start small but start this week.

## Key Takeaways

- Serving is the way of greatness - Jesus redefined greatness as serving others rather than seeking position or power
- Serving our community is who we are as a church - it's not just something we do occasionally but part of our core identity
- Serving opens hearts to Jesus - when we meet practical needs, we build trust and create opportunities for spiritual conversations
- We should live interruptible lives like Jesus did - being willing to set aside our plans to serve when we see needs
- Serving should start where we're planted - beginning in our homes and families before expanding to the broader community

## Ending Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank You for showing us what true greatness looks like through Your life of service. You came not to be served but to serve and give Your life as a ransom for many. Help us to follow Your example this week. Give us eyes to see the needs around us, starting in our own homes and extending to our community. Make us willing to be interrupted when You call us to serve. May our acts of service point others to You and bring glory to Your name. Transform our hearts to find joy in serving rather than being served. In Your precious name we pray, Amen.

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