

Serving Together

SERVING OTHERS FREELY - Small Group Resource

At Heartland we believe that serving others is an expression of God's grace, demonstrating God's love for the benefit of others. As such, it is a privilege to be able to partner with God and bring his kingdom of light into the broken world around us. God has given each of us talents and resources that we can share with others, to care for them or bless them as an expression of God's goodness, faithfulness and love.

Small groups are positioned to be the hands and feet of Christ in a powerful way. Not only do the group members have connections into the community that exposes them to a variety of needs, the group as a whole has resources and abilities to meet needs in a manner that outweighs what they can do as individuals.

How will you live out Serving Others Freely as a small group?
Invite the Holy Spirit to lead you as you seek God's heart
for your group in serving others.

Small Group Dialogue

- Have you ever been surprised by someone's kindness or generosity?
- Describe a time when someone helped you in a way that left you feeling grateful or loved.
- Have you ever had someone help you in a way that wasn't very helpful to you?
- What's more challenging for you to give – your time or your money? Would you rather contribute to your community through physical labour, sharing your intellectual/creative talents or by relationship building?
- What needs or injustices would you like to see changed and why?
- Describe a time when you stepped out of your comfort zone or skill set to serve in a way that was uncomfortable for you. What was the outcome? To what extent were you able to serve with a cheerful heart?
- In what ways have you connected with, stayed informed about or served at local agencies in our region?

*Small Group
Dialogue
continued...*

- Are there any volunteer experiences that you enjoyed that you would like to do again?
- How has serving impacted your relationship with God?
How have you seen him minister to you and/or through you as you serve?
- How can we as a small group encourage each other in serving others freely?

Planning Steps for Serving Others Freely

- What's the vision? Is the goal more relational focused or task focused?
- For some in your group, they may prefer to solve a problem, fix or build something and have a concrete, measurable goal to achieve. Examples of this would be to paint a fence, serve a meal or assemble food hampers.
- For others in your group, they may prefer to show love and compassion, bringing hope and joy to others. Examples of this may be to visit a senior, host a neighbourhood gathering or babysit for a young family.
- Ideas to think outside the box:
 - How can we serve through prayer?
 - How can we serve through creativity?
 - How can we serve through encouragement?
 - How can we serve by giving financially?
 - How can we serve through physical labour or activity?
 - How can we serve by sharing our expertise?
 - How can we serve relationally?
 - How can we serve those in positions of authority/visibility?
 - How can we serve those who are vulnerable or overlooked?
- What skills and resources are represented in your group? Share with one another some of your abilities and skills. What other attributes do you see in each other that you appreciate? How can these strengths be of benefit in serving others?
- Who in your network of friends, co-workers, neighbours and/or families are in crisis or need? Is there anyone whom God has brought to your attention that you are in a position to bless?

- What kind of time investment can you make? Are you looking for an ongoing opportunity to serve or a one-time event?
- Is there a need or demographic to which you are passionate about ministering? Are there people that you can serve who are normally overlooked?
- What is the Holy Spirit saying? Where/how does He want you to serve?
- What are the practical next steps we need to implement to see this through? Are there tasks that need to be delegated?

Additional Leader Resources

- "Five-Value Small Groups, Small Groups Foundations" Section 1, TrainedUp
- Small Group Covenant
- "Called to Serve" Sermon, Pastor Al Andrus, June 24, 2018
- Serving Others Freely, Heartland Membership Manual (pages 44-49)
- "Shepherding: Crisis Moments" Leader Training Workshop
- Heartland's Local Community Partners – Small Group Resource
- Heartland's Global Partners – Small Group Resource
- Debriefing Small Group Activities – Small Group Resource
- Church and community volunteer opportunities:
 - <https://www.heartlandalliance.ca/volunteer>
 - <https://www.strathcona.ca/community-families/volunteer-opportunities>
 - <https://volunteerstrathcona.ca>

