



spiritual adult

# DISCIPLE ME

**TRACK 4: MISSIONAL LIVING**

**SERVING IN SECRET**

## **ICEBREAKER: NO SPOTLIGHT NEEDED**

Go around the group and take turns naming a job or role that is important but often unnoticed or unappreciated (for example: janitor, night-shift worker, volunteer setup team, dishwasher). Each person has about three seconds to respond, and no repeats are allowed. If you hesitate too long or can't think of one, you're out. Keep going until the group runs out of ideas or only one person remains.

- Why do you think so many important roles go unnoticed?
- What makes it hard to stay motivated when no one sees or recognizes your effort?

## **STUDY: THE POWER OF YOUR WHY**

As we grow spiritually, our motivation begins to shift. Early on, we often serve because it feels good, looks good, or earns approval. But as we mature, something deeper starts to take root. We begin to move beyond asking, *"What do I get out of this?"* and start asking, *"How can I be a blessing to others?"* When humility and mission come together, that's when lasting spiritual growth takes place, and it begins to reshape the way we live.

To help us see this more clearly, we're going to look at a teaching from Jesus in Matthew 6:1–4. In this passage, Jesus speaks directly to the *why* behind our actions - not just what we do, but what's driving it.

### **Read Matthew 6:1-4**

- What warning is Jesus giving here?
- Why is being "seen" such a powerful temptation?
- What does Jesus reveal in regard to the importance of our motives?
- Why do you think Jesus values serving in secret?
- What do you notice in yourself when something good you've done goes completely unseen or unacknowledged?

- Why do you think being noticed or appreciated can feel so important to us, even when we're trying to do the right thing?
- How do you think your relationships or everyday environments might change if you began serving people more quietly and intentionally?

Serving in secret doesn't just change *what* we do - it reshapes *why* we do it. Consider the three ways that our "why" changes as we grow spiritually.

PERFORMING to PRACTICING	RECOGNITION to RELATIONSHIP	PLATFORM to PURPOSE
Early in our faith, it's easy to drift into <b>performing</b> - doing the right things to be seen. But Jesus invites us into something deeper: <b>practicing</b> quiet obedience, where the focus shifts from how it looks to how it forms us.	It moves us from <b>recognition</b> to <b>relationship</b> . Instead of serving to be seen, we serve out of connection with God. The reward shifts from applause to closeness, alignment, and trust - we're no longer proving anything, we're responding to Someone.	And it moves us from <b>platform</b> to <b>purpose</b> . Our goal is no longer influence that's visible or measurable. It's impact that's real, even if it's unseen. We stop asking, " <i>Where can I be seen?</i> " and start asking, " <i>Where can I be faithful?</i> "

Spiritual Adults look different. They still serve. They still sacrifice. They still show up. But they no longer need the spotlight to stay motivated. Because they trust this: God sees. God knows. God is at work - even in the unseen. And when that belief takes root, it frees us to live with a quiet, steady kind of influence - the kind that doesn't draw attention to itself and needs the spotlight, but consistently brings life to others.

### ACTIVITY: REWRITE THE WHY

Read **Colossians 3:23**, then using the box below, rewrite the verse in your own words as if you were explaining it to a friend. Use simple, everyday language, and try to make it personal - focusing on the heart behind the verse, not just the wording. As you write, think about what it would look like to actually live this out in your everyday life, especially in the things no one else sees.

### CHALLENGE: SECRET SERVICE

This week, choose one person and serve them in a meaningful way - without them knowing it was you. Look for a real need you can meet, take action quietly, and resist the urge to explain, hint, or take credit. Let it remain unseen, and pay attention to what it does in your heart as you serve. Next week, don't even tell your discipleship partner(s) what you did, just share about what you learned by serving in secret.