

DEVOTIONAL

Hollywood Prayer Network

SERVING

Jesus came not to be served, but to serve. That's the mandate for this week. Can you serve others the way Jesus served us; with zeal, a spiritual fervor and with devoted faithfulness? It's worth seeing how you can be serving God and serving others the same way Jesus role-modeled for you over 2,000 years ago.

DAY 1

GOD HONORS THOSE WHO SERVE HIM

"FAITH IS THE FIRST FACTOR IN A LIFE
DEVOTED TO SERVICE. WITHOUT IT,
NOTHING IS POSSIBLE. WITH IT,
NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE."

-MARY MCLEOD BETHUNE

John 12:26

New International Version

Whoever serves me must follow me; and
where I am, my servant also will be. My
Father will honor the one who serves me.

DAY 1

PRAY: Dear Jesus, I know You want me to serve You and to follow You all the days of my life. Please help me to do that so that Your Father, my heavenly Father, will honor me. I need Your help to understand how Your Father could ever honor me, but I trust that if I keep my eyes on You and serve and follow You, that I will see the full picture of this commandment. I am Your servant and am honored that Your Father, my God, honors me! Amen.

REFLECT: Is it possible that God, our heavenly Father, will honor us? What could that mean? He will honor those who honor Him. It's very honoring to God to be serving Him and following Him. So, to be honored by the God of the universe, follow Him and serve Him. He promises that where He is, we will be also. That's amazing to have that access to our God, while here on earth, as a mere human! How can we serve Him?... By serving others! And how can we follow Him, even when the world tries to pull us in a different direction? It's worth asking the hard questions in order to be in a place where God is honoring you.

ACT: List three ways that you can serve God. Then start putting those into practice. When you find yourself serving Him more naturally, you will find that you are following Him more closely and He will honor the one who serves Him. Pray that you become a faithful servant.

DAY 2

SERVE HIM FAITHFULLY WITH ALL YOUR HEART

"BEING THE QUEEN IS NOT ALL ABOUT SINGING, AND BEING A DIVA IS NOT ALL ABOUT SINGING. IT HAS MUCH TO DO WITH YOUR SERVICE TO PEOPLE. AND YOUR SOCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO YOUR COMMUNITY AND YOUR CIVIC CONTRIBUTIONS AS WELL."

-ARETHA FRANKLIN

1 Samuel 12:24

New International Version

But be sure to fear the Lord and serve him faithfully with all your heart; consider what great things he has done for you.

DAY 2

PRAY: Dear God, I never want to forget what great things You have done for me. Your faithfulness to me makes me want to serve You more faithfully with all my heart. Teach me how to fear You more and serve You every day of my life. May my life be a testimony of Your faithfulness to me. Lord, let me consider all of the great things You have done and continue to do for me. I pray this in Jesus Name! Amen.

REFLECT: What does it mean to fear the Lord? We are not to be scared of Him, but we are to be in awe of His goodness, faithfulness and love, and then we should want to serve Him faithfully with all of our hearts. When you consider what great things He has done for you, what do you think of? Are you in awe of Him? Does it make you want to serve Him more?

ACT: Take a few minutes to sit in awe before God. Then thank Him for all of the great things He has done for you. Tell Him all you know He has done for you and then thank Him for each one. Then ask Him if you are serving Him faithfully, with all your heart, or is there something else He wants you to do? He is an awesome God, so why don't you tell Him so?

DAY 3

NO ONE CAN SERVE TWO MASTERS

"IF I COULD GIVE YOU INFORMATION OF MY LIFE, IT WOULD BE TO SHOW HOW A WOMAN OF VERY ORDINARY ABILITY HAS BEEN LED BY GOD IN STRANGE AND UNACCUSTOMED PATHS TO DO IN HIS SERVICE WHAT HE HAS DONE IN HER. AND IF I COULD TELL YOU ALL, YOU WOULD SEE HOW GOD HAS DONE ALL, AND I NOTHING."

-FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE

Matthew 6:24

New International Version

No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money.

DAY 3

PRAY: Oh Lord, I don't want to serve anyone but You. You tell me it's impossible to serve two masters, so I ask that you keep my eyes and heart only on You. I want to be devoted to You and stay away from evil, from the love of money or from any other temptations that will take me away from my love and devotion to You. I know that I can't serve two masters, so I need Your help to serve You only. Thank You, Lord! Amen.

REFLECT: We often think that we're only serving and following the Lord, but other idols or "masters" can slip in and take away our sincere service and faithfulness to our God. Who or what do you think you might be serving now, above God? Could it be money? Your job? The love of your life? God is so strong that He says we are to hate any other master other than Him and we should despise anything that comes in the way of Him. Who do you choose to serve? And how do you make sure you're not serving two masters?

ACT: Today is the day to draw your line in the sand. Choose, this day, whom you will serve. God has given us the freedom to choose who and what we want to serve, but if there is any chance that you might be serving money, or another person, or fame, or honor, or position, or anything else over God, then today is the day to repent. Ask Him to purify your heart and to faithfully, fully, serve only Him from this day forward. Put up a proclamation in your home "For me and my house, we will serve the Lord."

DAY 4

KEEP YOUR SPIRITUAL FERVOR SERVING THE LORD

“EXPERIENCE PROVES THAT IN THIS LIFE
PEACE AND SATISFACTION ARE HAD, NOT BY
THE LISTLESS BUT BY THOSE WHO ARE
FERVENT IN GOD’S SERVICE. AND RIGHTLY
SO. FOR IN THEIR EFFORT TO OVERCOME
THEMSELVES AND TO RID THEMSELVES OF
SELF-LOVE, THEY RID THEMSELVES OF THE
ROOTS OF ALL PASSION AND UNREST.”
-SAINT IGNATIUS

Romans 12:11-13

New International Version

Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with God’s people who are in need. Practice hospitality.

DAY 4

PRAY: Jesus, You have laid out how to serve You, now I just need to do it. I want to be full of zeal, keeping my spiritual fervor as I serve You. Thank You for showing me how to share with Your people who are in need. I will be joyful in hope, patient when I'm afflicted, and faithful to pray. And now I need to share my faith with people around me, for they need the hope and truth of You and Your gospel. And I want to practice generous and loving hospitality. Thank You for this reminder. Amen.

REFLECT: God doesn't want us to be sad, grumpy or depressed Christians. He tells us NEVER to be lacking in zeal. How often do you have spiritual fervor while serving the Lord? Do you have an eternal hope that is joyful? Are you patient when things go wrong, when you're hurting or in pain? Do you pray faithfully? And harder yet, do you share your faith with others? How often do you welcome people into your home, share a meal with someone in need or have a lonely person stay overnight? It's hard to serve God, both physically and emotionally, but God loves a cheerful giver. Do you need His help to be full of zeal and spiritual fervor? What kind of servant are you? Are you excited to be a follower of Jesus? We should be overflowing!

DAY 4

ACT: Do one thing this week to serve God with zeal. Invite a lonely person over for dinner, or share your faith with an unbelieving co-worker. Or, you can pray for someone who seems to be in need. Serve the Lord by helping another person, and do it with joy and spiritual fervor and you will find yourself living the abundant life!



DAY 5

IT IS JESUS YOU ARE SERVING

"IF YOU HAVE NO OPPOSITION IN THE
PLACE YOU SERVE, YOU'RE SERVING IN
THE WRONG PLACE."

-G. CAMPBELL MORGAN

Colossians 3:23–24

New International Version

Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.

DAY 5

PRAY: Heavenly Father, today I want to pray for the people who are shaping our culture and our society. I want to pray for the decision-makers and cultural influencers in the Hollywood entertainment industry. May they work at whatever they do with all their heart. May they serve You and not human masters. And may You let them know that if they do, they can receive an inheritance from You that is far greater than an Academy Award, or their picture on a billboard, or their name on the credits of a great movie, song, or TV show. Lord, may the people in Hollywood fall in love with You and serve You and You alone. Amen.

REFLECT: It's easy to judge people who don't live the way we do. And it's very easy to condemn the people in Hollywood for living godless, immoral lives. But have you thought how hard it is for you to work with all your heart, as working for the Lord? Just think how much harder it is for people who don't even know the Lord. It's possible that the people in Hollywood would want to receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward for following Him, but they just don't know how. Maybe all they need to change their hearts and their behavior is for someone to lovingly pray for them to meet Jesus, trust Him, follow Him, and then serve Him. Maybe your prayers are all they need.

DAY 5

ACT: Pray right now that the decision-makers and the cultural influencers in Hollywood will come to know Jesus. Pray that they can learn about Jesus and want to follow Him and serve Him with zeal. Pray that their lives will be open to Him so that they can serve Him with all of their hearts, souls and minds, and find great joy in that. Your prayers will make an eternal difference and you will get the joy of sharing your inheritance with others who never knew Him and never knew the joy of serving Him until you prayed!



DAY 6

SERVE OTHERS WITH YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFTS

"ONE OF THE PRINCIPAL RULES OF RELIGION IS, TO LOSE NO OCCASION OF SERVING GOD. AND, SINCE HE IS INVISIBLE TO OUR EYES, WE ARE TO SERVE HIM IN OUR NEIGHBOR, WHICH HE RECEIVES AS IF DONE TO HIMSELF IN PERSON, STANDING VISIBLY BEFORE US."
-JOHN WESLEY

1 Peter 4:10

New International Version

Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms.

DAY 6

PRAY: God, would You show me what gift or gifts You've given me so that I can be a faithful steward of that gift, using it to help others and to glorify You? I want to be a faithful servant of Your grace in its various forms, depending on the gifts I have received from You. So, please show me and let me not miss anything that You have for me. Amen and Amen.

REFLECT: We are all given unique and special gifts and talents that we should use to give God the glory and to serve others. Have you thought about your gift or gifts? What are they? Are you using them? Are you serving others with them? Do you see that you're making an eternal difference in this world, in whatever form, to share God's grace through the use of your gifts? How can you become a more faithful steward of all that God has given you?

ACT: Why don't you take a Spiritual Gifts test today? If you have never taken one before, there are many options on-line. If you have taken one in the past, why not do it again and see if anything has changed. Once you know your spiritual gifts, ask the people closest to you if they can see those gifts in you. Then plan how to actively use them to serve others. You will truly have a more joyful and fulfilled life if you know your spiritual gifts and then use them to serve others, as a faithful steward.

DAY 7

TO BECOME GREAT YOU MUST SERVE

"WE SHOULD ALWAYS LOOK UPON OURSELVES AS GOD'S SERVANTS, PLACED IN GOD'S WORLD, TO DO HIS WORK; AND ACCORDINGLY LABOUR FAITHFULLY FOR HIM; NOT WITH A DESIGN TO GROW RICH AND GREAT, BUT TO GLORIFY GOD, AND DO ALL THE GOOD WE POSSIBLY CAN."

-DAVID BRAINERD

Mark 10:43-45

New International Version

Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.

DAY 7

PRAY: Dear Lord, this verse is the perfect one to end my week. The act of humbling myself before You and others so that I can become a willing and joyful servant is powerful. Don't let me want to be first, for I don't want to be a slave of all. Help me to remember that You came, not to be served, but to serve. Thank You for being the ultimate servant by giving Your life as a ransom for everyone, including me! Amen.

REFLECT: You've heard that "man's ways are opposite of God's ways." Well, this verse makes that very clear. "Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all." This is the perfect example of God doing things so differently than man. Do you live your life this way? Serving others, not trying to be the first, or the best, or the most noticed? This goes against our culture but it's being like Jesus, who came, not to be served, but to serve. Are you willing to give your life as a ransom for many? This is a hard verse to live out, but with God, all things are possible for those who believe. And you will immediately see the results of your service through others' responses!

ACT: End this week by serving someone, sacrificially, as if you were giving your life for them. Go out of your way to do something radically generous or kind for someone who would not expect it. Surprise him or her with your servant's heart. Rock someone's world today by stepping out of your comfort zone and serving one person with the love of Jesus!