

# What We Believe About Serving

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At Grace, we ask all of our members to serve the church in some capacity. Not only are we called by God to serve others, but Grace Church needs the ownership of each person to fulfill our mission. Grace is a family of congregations, connected by serving one another and working faithfully towards making mature followers of Christ. When we serve together each week, we make friends, share life, and become a vital part of our church community.

## Why should you serve?

Church was never meant to be a spectator sport where we just show up, sit back to consume and be entertained for an hour, and then go home. Scripture tells us that we are each given a unique set of gifts, talents, and abilities for the specific purpose of serving the Lord and building up the church. Some people are gifted at teaching; others are gifted at singing, greeting, organizing, or leading. These gifts are meant to be shared, and in fact, the body of Christ is not complete without all of our gifts working together (1 Peter 4:10-11 and Romans 12:6-7). Using your gifts to serve others brings meaning, purpose, and joy to your life.

Serving also exposes your weaknesses, makes you vulnerable, stretches you beyond our comfort zone, and shows just how much you need to depend on God for strength. Service requires that you humble yourself; even Jesus, all-powerful and fully God, came to serve and give his life away for others (Mark 10:45). This act of humbling ourselves gives the Holy Spirit room to work in our hearts and change us to become more like Christ. Scripture also tells us that we find life by giving up our lives for Christ (Matthew 10:39). Part of the process of maturing as a believer is giving our lives away as Jesus did. Although serving challenges us, it is actually life-giving and life-changing.

When we serve others, we give up what we would rather do with our time, and we focus on what others need instead. In doing so, we are reflecting the love of Christ to a hurting world and bringing praise to our heavenly Father (Matthew 5:16). Our service becomes much bigger than just the act itself; it's transcendent as we are used by a holy and living God to draw others to himself.

