

# Discussion Guide



Summer 2010 Sermon Series  
<http://www.rbcpc.org/spiritual-apps/>

## “Transformed by Service”

Week # 4, July 24/25, 2010

1. **Scriptures:** James 2:14-17, Matthew 25:31-46
  - iphone: visit App Store, ibible or Bible: Life Church YouVersion
  - blackberry/droid: visit App World, Bible: Life Church YouVersion

2. **Sermon:** “Transformed by Service” Pastor Bruce Humphrey,  
<http://www.rbcpc.org/about-us/sermons/>

Reading Resource: [www.amazon.com/Life-Youve-Always-Wanted-Disciplines/](http://www.amazon.com/Life-Youve-Always-Wanted-Disciplines/)  
Practicing the Spiritual Apps: [www.rbcpc.org/small-groups/](http://www.rbcpc.org/small-groups/)

3. **Study resources**
  - John Ortberg, *The Life You’ve Always Wanted*, Ch. 7 “Appropriate Smallness”
  - Richard Foster, *Celebration of Discipline, Part II*, Ch. 9, “Service”
4. **Study Guide** <http://www.rbcpc.org/spiritual-apps/>
5. **Blog** <http://spiritualapps.blogspot.com/>

Next week: July 31/Aug 1: **Sermon:** “Transformed by Confession”

**Study:** *The Life You’ve Always Wanted*, Ch. 8, “Life Beyond Regret”  
*Celebration of Discipline*, Ch. 10, “Confession”

## ***“Transformed by Service”***

### **Scripture References**

Read and reflect on the following scriptures. What do they say to you about the practice of *service*?

#### **James 2:14-17**

What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? <sup>15</sup> If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, <sup>16</sup> and one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill," and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? <sup>17</sup> So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

*Notes:*

#### **Matthew 25:31-46**

"When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. <sup>32</sup> All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, <sup>33</sup> and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. <sup>34</sup> Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; <sup>35</sup> for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, <sup>36</sup> I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' <sup>37</sup> Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? <sup>38</sup> And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? <sup>39</sup> And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' <sup>40</sup> And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.' <sup>41</sup> Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; <sup>42</sup> for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, <sup>43</sup> I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' <sup>44</sup> Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?' <sup>45</sup> Then he will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' <sup>46</sup> And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

*Notes:*

## ***“Transformed by Service”***

### **Discussion Guide**

#### **Sermon**

Key Words: **Serve - Service - Training - Being - Frustration**

1. Think about one “ministry of the mundane” in which you have participated (either willingly or unwillingly!) For what was God training you?
2. Open the Bible and read Philippians 2:6.

***The word “being” can either mean although or it can mean because. So we could interpret the passage as either, “Although he was in very nature God... he took the very nature of a servant,” or “Because he was in very nature God... he took the very nature of a servant.”***

***Bruce Humphrey***

What happens to the meaning of the scripture as you switch the words?

3. What happens to the value of Jesus’ *service*?
4. Pastor Bruce shares a story about Dee’s doctor teaching her about helping others. What does this story tell you about the connection between *service* and *transformation*?

#### **Scripture**

5. Read the James 2:14-17 scripture. What do you think James means by the word “good?”
6. What would it look like to have faith that is not “good?”
7. Read the Matthew 25:31-46 scripture. What is the goal of an act of *service*? Whom are you serving?
8. How does this scripture reflect the nature of God?

#### **Study Resource**

9. What does Ortberg describe as the “oldest sin?” Why do you think God allowed it?

***“Jesus knew that his own followers would wrestle with the messiah complex, so he decided to put them in a small group together...Hang out with a group of people long enough, and the messiah complex will rear its ugly head.” John Ortberg.***

10. Do you agree with this statement? Why?
11. Why was it so hard for the Pharisees, and the disciples for that matter, to accept the Messiah as a servant? How did Jesus live up to their expectations? Or not?
12. What is “approval addiction?” How does the practice of serving in secrecy help to break that addiction?

## ***“Transformed by Service”***

### **Life Applications SPIRITUAL APP: Service**

Think about what you are trying to achieve through the discipline of *service* - keep that in mind as you go through this section.

*Remember that not all spiritual apps/disciplines will work for everyone. Celebrate that fact! Spiritual disciplines are a lot like spiritual gifts in that the Holy Spirit uses each one of us in a unique way. If this one does not work for you, don't give up, try the next one!*

#### **Personal:**

- Think about the last time you did something nice for someone else? Imagine Jesus' face instead of the other person – how does this change the way you look at that person?
- Perform a small act of service in secret. Afterward, spend a few devotional moments with God, then celebrate the joy of Jesus' smile!

#### **Small Group:**

Plan a group service project. It doesn't have to be an international mission trip! Here are some suggestions:

- Go to the beach together – use the 1<sup>st</sup> hour to do a “clean-up.”
- Make lunch for the day laborers waiting on the corner – deliver with a smile and a prayer.
- Volunteer to help out at the RBCPC Resale Shop (858) 486-5023 – all proceeds go directly to mission!
- Check out the RBCPC mission web page: [www.rbcpc.org/missions/](http://www.rbcpc.org/missions/) for opportunities.
- Check out the Season of Service website: [www.sandiegocityfest.com](http://www.sandiegocityfest.com) for more suggestions for service opportunities this summer.

#### **Pray:**

- Personal: That you will be bold, yet humble, enough to serve slightly out of your comfort zone – and see Jesus smile in the face of others.
- Group: That serving together would strengthen your group as a whole, and minimize messiah-complexes.
- Kingdom: Pray for the pew angels and for their quiet dedication to service, every week, without exception, as they prepare the sanctuary so that others may meet and follow Jesus.