

## A Look at My Serving

Would you like to serve more intentionally, joyfully, impactfully and faith-fully? This tool helps you look at where you are serving, how it impacts you and others, and how it relates to your relationship with God. We're using the word 'serving' here to cover everything you do, including what you do where you live, work and play, and as you help people in need.

You use this tool in several ways. You can think about one specific way or place where you are serving (for example, as a daughter or a volunteer tutor), or you can think about one area of serving (such as at church or in your extended family) or you can think about your overall serving in all areas of your life. This is not a scorecard; it's simply a tool to help you select an area in which you'd like to grow. Suggested growth steps and helpful resources follow the three charts.

### Serving and My Faith

*"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters." Col. 3:23*

|  | Never | Occasionally | Frequently | Regularly or often |
|--|-------|--------------|------------|--------------------|
| I prayed specifically about my serving initially |       |              |            |                    |
| I pray about my serving on an ongoing basis      |       |              |            |                    |
| My serving helps my faith grow                   |       |              |            |                    |
| My faith helps me in my serving                  |       |              |            |                    |
| I think about my serving as serving God          |       |              |            |                    |

### Where I'm Serving

*"For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." Eph. 2:10*

|   | Never | Occasionally | Frequently | Regularly or often |
|---|-------|--------------|------------|--------------------|
| I'm using my strengths <sup>1</sup> in my serving                   |       |              |            |                    |
| I generously give time and energy for the sake of others            |       |              |            |                    |
| I reserve adequate time for rest                                    |       |              |            |                    |
| I have an intentional balance . . . between short/long term serving |       |              |            |                    |
| . . . between superficial and relational serving <sup>2</sup>       |       |              |            |                    |
| . . . between serving at home, church and community                 |       |              |            |                    |

<sup>1</sup> my skills, interests, spiritual gifts

<sup>2</sup> donating school supplies is more superficial; weekly tutoring is more relational

### Impact of My Serving

*"Worship the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs." Psalm 100:2*

|  | Never | Occasionally | Frequently | Regularly or often |
|--|-------|--------------|------------|--------------------|
| My serving brings me joy <sup>3</sup>        |       |              |            |                    |
| What I do has a positive impact <sup>4</sup> |       |              |            |                    |
| I am intentional about accepting new tasks   |       |              |            |                    |

<sup>3</sup> When serving is difficult, joy is less like happiness and more like a deep inner confidence or peace in the rightness of the serving.

<sup>4</sup> I can see the outcomes for both myself and those I serve are more positive than negative.

# Want to Grow in Your Serving?

*"If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit." John 15:5*

We all have room to grow in our serving, but change isn't easy. These three simple steps help.

## 1. Pray and Listen

Talk to God and look for his input. Here are some ways to increase your connection with him.

- Regular worship with your church family
- Regular time at home reading scripture and in prayer
- Increase prayer time; include a quiet time of listening with your prayers
- Conversation with someone further along in their faith journey

## 2. Do Something! Start small. Pick ONE thing you will do or do differently. Some suggestions:

If you want to more deeply connect your serving and your faith

- Initiate or expand daily devotional time
- Begin and end each serving experience with prayer
- Pray specifically for a particular need or challenge you are facing
- Read *Every Good Endeavor* by Timothy Keller

If you want to be more intentional about where you serve

- Explore how God has gifted you. List your abilities, interests, experiences and the causes you care about. Ask others what they see as your strengths. Use one of the tools in the 'Using My Time and Talents' in the Resources document linked below.
- Consider how the things you do line up (or not) with your abilities, interests, experience and the causes you care about.
- To find new places to serve, check out opportunities at your church, local volunteer center, local nonprofits or national database. See Resources document for links.

Regarding the impact of your serving

- Pray specifically for those you are serving
- The only source of unshakeable joy is in what God has done for us. Use a Bible app to search for verses about 'joy.' Post where you'll see them frequently.
- Read *Toxic Charity* by Robert Lupton

## 3. Tell Someone.

Accountability increases success. Tell a friend or family member what you plan to do, or do differently, and why. Ask them to check in with you at a later agreed-upon time.

[A full list of resources](#) on serving is available on our website. St. Peter's church staff and volunteer ministry guides are great people for conversations about serving. Contact church staff directly. Karen Kogler, [kkogler@FullLifeinChrist.org](mailto:kkogler@FullLifeinChrist.org), Director of Equipping, can direct you to a ministry guide or answer additional questions.