

Resources on Using our Gifts to Serve Others and Equipping Others to do the Same

How does God want me to serve?

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

Books

- [*The Call: Finding and Fulfilling God's Purpose for Your Life*](#) by Os Guinness
- [*Beginner's Pluck: Build Your Life of Purpose and Impact Now*](#) by Liz Forkin Bohannon. One woman's story of impact.
- [*Get Off Your Donkey!: Help Somebody and Help Yourself*](#) by Reggie McNeal
- [*Every Good Endeavor: Connecting Your Work to God's Work*](#) by Timothy Keller
- [*Joining Jesus on His Mission: How to be an Everyday Missionary*](#) by Greg Finke
- [*Halftime: Moving from Success to Significance*](#) by Bob P. Buford
- [*God at Work: Your Christian Vocation in All of Life*](#) by Gene Edward Veith Jr.

Using My Time and Talents

“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

Books

- [*S.H.A.P.E.: Finding and Fulfilling Your Unique Purpose for Life*](#) by Erik Rees and Rick Warren
- [*StrengthsFinder 2.0*](#) by Tom Rath

Tools

- Take a Spiritual Gift Assessment. Many are available online.
- A free S.H.A.P.E. test is also available online.
- Complete this “[Sharing My Gifts](#)” form and return it to the church office.

Places to Serve

- Look for ways to serve in your immediate and extended family and where you work and play.
- [At St. Peter](#)
- Finding places to serve in the community
 - Websites [HandsOn Suburban Chicago](#) and [Volunteer Match](#) have searchable databases
 - Find nonprofits that serve causes you care about. Check their websites for volunteer opportunities.

When Serving is Hard

“Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me.”
Luke 9:23

Books

- [*The Gift of Pain*](#) by Dr. Paul Brand and Philip Yancey
- [*The Cost of Discipleship*](#) by Dietrich Bonhoeffer
- [*A Grief Observed*](#) by C.S. Lewis

Other

- [“Praying Psalm 23”](#) – Devotions by Karen Kogler for caregivers and those they care for

Helping Without Hurting

“I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves.” Matthew 10:16

Books

- [Toxic Charity: How Churches and Charities Hurt Those They Help \(And How to Reverse It\)](#) by Robert D. Lupton
- [When Helping Hurts: How to Alleviate Poverty Without Hurting the Poor . . . and Yourself](#) by Steve Corbett and Brian Fikkert

Other

- [The Chalmers Center](#) equips churches to address the broken relationships at the root of material poverty. There are many resources on their website.

Equipping Others to Serve

“From [Christ] the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.” Eph 4:16

Books

- [Joining Jesus—Show Me How: How to Disciple Everyday Missionaries](#) by Greg Finke
- [Fearfully and Wonderfully Made: The Marvel of Bearing God’s Image](#) by Dr. Paul Brand and Philip Yancey
- [The Complete Idiot’s Guide to Recruiting and Managing Volunteers](#) by John L. Lipp
- [The New Breed: Understanding and Equipping the 21st Century Volunteer](#) by Jonathan McKee and Thomas McKee
- [From the Top Down: The Executive Role in Volunteer Program Success](#) by Susan j. Ellis

Websites

- [TheEquipper.org](#) – Karen Kogler’s website for churches helping people serve
- [Energize, Inc](#) – a wide variety of resources on volunteerism