

# “Serve ... as Witnesses to Jesus in Word and Deed”

Our Vision and Mission as Jesus’ Disciples, Part 4  
Small Group Study  
Week of Nov. 15, 2009

This week we look at the final section of our new statement of vision and mission by looking at our call to “serve.”

## ***To Begin ...***

1. Why are both eating well and getting exercise important for our physical health?
2. What is the parallel for our spiritual health?

## ***Review the Sermon and Go Deeper ...***

For each of the sections from Mark’s sermon outline, read the Scripture and answer the questions that follow:

### **“Serve ...”**

Means putting our ***faith into practice***

*“Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.”* (James 1:22)

1. What is it that James is warning us in the church about in this verse?
2. How does this relate to what Mark called “spiritual obesity”?

Means submitting to ***Jesus as Lord***

*Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus ...* (Php. 1:1)

1. Who, primarily, is it that Paul and Timothy saw themselves as serving?
2. Why is this important in thinking through our call to “serve?”

Means being ***others-centered***

*Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant ...”* (Php. 2:3-7)

1. Who is it, according to this verse, that we are to emulate in our service?
2. What did Jesus’ submission to His Father lead to in His life?
3. What does this tell us about what it means for us to submit to Jesus as Lord?

Is a call for ***all of us***

*It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God’s people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up* (Eph. 4:11-12)

1. What does Paul see as the role of a church’s leadership?
2. What is it that “God’s people” are to be involved in?
3. What is the intended result?

### **“as *witnesses to Jesus*”**

*But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth (Acts 1:8)*

1. What is it that Jesus calls us to do here?
2. What does it mean to be a witness?
3. Where are we to be witnesses?

### **“in *word ...*”**

*I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes... (Rom. 1:16)*

1. Is there a time when you had a chance to share the gospel with someone?  
What happened?
2. What would it take for you to be feel more comfortable sharing the gospel with others?

### **“and *deed.*”**

*Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God. (1 Pet. 2:12)*

1. What does this verse remind us of in terms being a witness?
2. How might someone use this verse as an excuse not to be a witness?
3. Why is it important to be witnesses both in word and deed?

### ***Making it Personal and Practical ...***

1. Which of the areas of the mission statement, “Connect,” “Grow,” and “Serve” do you think you need to focus on more in your life?
2. We won't be having “group” material until next quarter (after the holidays).  
What would do you think the next step for your group is?

### ***Praying Together ...***

1. Share concerns with one another, and pray for those concerns.