

Next Steps

These questions are designed to extend the impact of the weekend message. Use them to go deeper in your personal study time, with your family and/or with a group.

No one stumbles into discipleship or accidentally begins to follow Jesus better. NEXT STEPS outlines the priorities and strategies of The Hills Church to help make and grow followers of Jesus. What's your next step?

1 *SAVED* people *SERVE* people. The order is important: we do not serve to get saved, but we serve because we are saved. It's easy to get that order reversed and start to think that our good works contribute to our salvation. **Read Ephesians 2:8-10** and discuss the difference between serving to be saved versus serving because we are saved. Follow up question: What are some examples of "good works" God has planned for us to do?

2 Serving others is not for a special class of believers, but it is for everyone enrolled in the "following Jesus" class. Jesus didn't just write the curriculum, he lived it. **Read Philippians 2:5-7.** Jesus intentionally chose the path of downward mobility. What does following him in this way look like for us today?

3 Jesus *emphasizes* serving others. **Read Mark 10:42-45.** Jesus doesn't just question the "top down" way of changing the world; he opposes it. In what ways do disciples make the mistake of trying to use the world's way to be great? How has this been a struggle for you?

4 Jesus *empowers* serving others. Jesus wants us to be his tangible presence in the world, and he empowers us for his mission through the presence of the Holy Spirit. **Read 1 Peter 4:11.** What gift has the Spirit given you for the sake of others? Share an example of a time when you knew it was God's strength enabling you to serve.

5 Jesus *embraces* serving others. He welcomes service to the least as service to himself. **Read Matthew 25:37-40.** Why do you think the people were unaware of the significance of their service? What does this say about the nature of true service?

6 We must put the *low in follow*. As followers of Jesus we must intentionally pursue a path of downward mobility. **Read 2 Corinthians 4:5.** In practical terms, how do we preach that we are servants for Jesus without calling attention to ourselves?

7 Rick closed by reminding us that "*We cannot preach the gospel without words, but we cannot witness to the gospel with only words.*" How is that true and relevant in our lives?

NEXT STEP

God has equipped us with skills and talents that can help build His kingdom. Serving at church and in our community serves God and shows others the heart of Jesus. What is your **NEXT STEP** as you think about how to **Serve Others**? Make sure you check out the opportunities found on this page: <http://www.thehills.org/serve/>

