

Life Group Guide 2 Cor 6:1–10 “Proper Perspectives When Serving”
For the Sermon Preached on Sun Mar 3 & For Use in Life Groups through Sun Mar 10

Icebreaker Question

What is your favorite memory of being able to serve someone else? Why did you do it? What was hard about it? How did you feel after you had served them?

Pastor Richard’s Sermon Outline

- I. Maintain a proper perspective about the purpose of service (vv. 1-3).**
 - a. Serving God is an honor (v. 1a).
 - b. Serving God is a priority (vv. 1b-2).
 - c. Serving God is a calling (v. 3; 1 Cor. 9:19-23).
- II. Maintain a proper perspective about the passion of service (vv. 4-7).**
 - a. Passion is seen in one’s desire to share the gospel (vv. 4-5).
 - b. Passion is seen in one’s commitment to the gospel (vv. 6-7).
 - c. Five practical ways we can live out a passion and commitment for the gospel in our circle of influence.
 - i. Passion and commitment require a love for God and a love for others (2 Tim. 2:15; 1 John 4:7-8).
 - ii. Passion and commitment require us to pray for those in our circle of influence (Phil. 4:6; Eph. 6:10-20).
 - iii. Passion and commitment require us to live lives that point those in our circle of influence to Christ (Daniel 1; 1 Pet. 3:15).
 - iv. Passion and commitment require you to eliminate those areas of your life that are in competition with your command to love God and love others (Matt. 6:24).
 - v. Passion and commitment require you to make yourself available to every gospel conversation and opportunity that God places in your path (Eph. 5:15-15).
- III. Maintain the prospective about the paradox of service (vv. 8-10).**
 - a. The paradoxical nature of serving God.
 - b. Five things the Bible says about serving God:
 - i. Serving is one of your life purposes (Mark 8:35).
 - ii. Serving makes you more like Jesus (Matt. 20:28).
 - iii. Serving is the highest use of your time (1 Cor. 15:58).
 - iv. Serving is the secret to greatness (Matt. 20:26).
 - v. Serving will be rewarded in heaven (1 Cor. 3:11-15; 2 Cor. 5:9-11).

2 Corinthians 6:1–3

Read 2 Corinthians 6:1–3: Observation:

1. With whom are we working as we serve according to v. 1?
2. In v. 1, Paul makes an appeal to the Corinthians? What is his appeal?
3. Where does the quote in v. 2 come from? What does Paul say God has done for us?
4. How does Paul say we should think about today in v. 2?
5. In v. 3, what does Paul argue that he and the other missionaries have not done?

Interpretation:

6. Quickly review 2 Corinthians 5 and put all the elements in these three verses together. What is the argument of 2 Corinthians 6:1-3? What is Paul saying? How is it connected to 2 Cor 5?

Application:

7. What are some of the most discouraging parts of serving in the church. How does the gospel correct our thinking on this? What are the best ways to avoid discouragement in serving Christ?

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8. This week memorize 2 Corinthians 6:2 - "Behold, now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation" and quote this to yourself when you become discouraged in serving.

2 Corinthians 6:4–7

Read 2 Corinthians 6:4–7: Observation

9. What does Paul call himself and the other missionaries in v. 4?
10. In vs. 4-5 how does Paul describe the hardships the missionaries endured?
11. How does Paul describe the virtues of the missionaries in v. 6?
[knowledge, patience, kindness, walking in the Holy Spirit, and genuine love.]
12. How does Paul describe the practices of the missionaries in v. 7?

Interpretation:

13. Walk back through vs. 4-5, item by item. Can you of an example from the life of Paul when these hardships happened to him or other Christians? What are some modern examples of these?
14. Walk back through vs. 6, item by item. How would you explain these virtues to which Paul refers? How do we acquire these virtues?
15. Walk back through vs. 7, item by item. What practices of the missionaries is Paul commending to his readers? How can we better practice these ourselves?

Application:

16. In Pastor Richard's sermon, he reviewed "Five practical ways we can live out a passion and commitment for the gospel in our circle of influence." Which one are you strongest in? Which one do you struggle with most? Brainstorm in your group some practical ways everyone can improve in these areas.
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2 Corinthians 6:8–10

Read 2 Corinthians 6:8–10: Observation

17. In v. 8, how does Paul describe the treatment, both good and bad, that the missionaries experienced?
18. In v. 9, how does Paul describe the treatment, both good and bad, that the missionaries experienced?
19. In v. 10, how does Paul describe the treatment, both good and bad, that the missionaries experienced?

Interpretation:

20. Walk back through vs. 8-10, item by item. How does Paul describe the experience of serving Christ? What should we make of the figures of speech, especially in v. 10 ("We make people rich," and "We possess everything")?

Application:

21. Pastor Richard reviewed for us "Five things the Bible says about serving." These aren't the only things the Bible says about serving. What would you add to this list to encourage others in your group to serve?
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