

# Church of God Sunday School



## THE CHRISTIAN'S TOOLBOX — SERVICE

### DAILY READINGS:

- ❑ **Monday:** A few things public worship service includes (Acts 20:7; Ephesians 5:19-20; Colossians 4:16).
- ❑ **Tuesday:** Public worship services are times of encouragement (Hebrews 10:24-25; 1 Thessalonians 5:11).
- ❑ **Wednesday:** Serving God is your reasonable service (Romans 12:1; 1 Corinthians 6:19-20).
- ❑ **Thursday:** Jesus taught how to serve (Philippians 2:4-7; Mark 10:45).
- ❑ **Friday:** God wants you to witness through serving others (Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:8).
- ❑ **Saturday:** Some examples of serving (Mark 9:41; Matthew 25:35-36; James 1:27).

**MEMORY VERSE:** *"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service."* —Romans 12:1

What is service to God? Often a gathering of God's people for worship is called a "church service" or a "worship service." What does that mean? Is our service to God limited to public worship times only? What service does God expect from a child of God? Before you can work for God, you must have a worshiping heart. "God wants worshipers before workers" (A. W. Tozer). People who have a worshiping heart have spent much time in prayer and Bible reading. They will also meet with other Christians to worship God publicly in a worship service.



### Worship Service

Why is the word *service* used when describing a time of public worship? If you have a heart full of love and praise to God, you will want to serve Him (the act of serving is defined as "a service"). Have you ever heard the phrase "I was glad to be of service"? That is how the Christian feels toward God. God gave His only Son to die to pay for the sins of the whole world. Because of this sacrifice, you can have God's Spirit living within your heart. You can talk to God and hear Him talking to you. This is a wonderful privilege! As your understanding and appreciation of God and what He has done grows, so your desire to serve Him will grow as well.

God's Word lets us know what a worship service will include: prayer (1 Corinthians 14:15-16), singing (Ephesians 5:19), reading God's Word (Colossians 4:16), preaching or teaching (Acts 20:7), giving (1 Corinthians 16:2), and partaking of the Lord's Supper (Acts 20:7). What is the purpose of these acts of worship? Are they to bring applause to the singers, praise to the preacher, or to increase the congregation's bank account? Although it is good to offer words of thanks to people who serve during a church service and giving is necessary, what is the purpose of God's people (the church) gathering together for a worship service?

When warning God's people of the danger of "forsaking the assembling of ourselves together," Hebrews 10:25 also tells us why worship services are important: "exhorting one another." The word *exhort* means "to encourage and strengthen, to comfort, to instruct and teach." First Thessalonians 5:11 describes it to "edify one another." The word *edify* means "to build up, to give one strength and courage." What are some of the ways God's people can *exhort* and *edify*? Colossians 3:16 describes it as "teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs." Perhaps you might sing in a choir or in a small group. When you worship God through song, you can also encourage someone who is going through a difficult time. This is giving service to God.

Another way to encourage others is by giving a testimony of praise, telling people what God has done for you. Hebrews 2:12 says, "I will declare thy name unto my brethren, in the midst of the church will I sing praise unto thee."

Many times a testimony will encourage God's people to remember and praise God for their own answers to prayer. Exhorting through instructing or teaching happens during teaching lessons or through a preached message. God needs "pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying" of God's people (Ephesians 4:11-12). When ministers and teachers give understanding to others concerning what the Bible says, they are giving service to God. These are just a few examples of the many ways God's people serve Him during the worship service.

### Your Reasonable Service

Is service limited to times of public worship only? In the Old Testament, worship included offering sacrifices to God. (A *sacrifice* is giving up something highly valued for something else considered to have a greater value.) Because Jesus became the "one sacrifice for sins for ever" (Hebrews 10:12), God no longer requires a sacrifice of animals from His people. However, there is another kind of sacrifice that He desires. The sacrificed animals in the Old Testament were dead, but now God wants "a living sacrifice" (Romans 12:1). What is this sacrifice? This verse also tells you to "present your *bodies*." God wants all of you—your life, your desires, your worship, your abilities—to be given to Him. A "living sacrifice" that is "acceptable unto God" is understanding that you are God's property. "Ye are not your own" (1 Corinthians 6:19). In other words, you are God's servant. You no longer live your life for yourself (selfishly), doing what you want to do, but when you are a "living sacrifice," you live to please and serve God.

What does a life of service to God look like? Will it be too hard, unenjoyable, boring, restrictive? Paul wrote that God expects "reasonable service." Too many people think God is a hard taskmaster, requiring more than they are able to give. Is that true? The word *reasonable* is defined as "of the word." Reasonable service is serving God according to His Word, the Bible. What does the Bible say about how to serve? Jesus is our example, and He "took upon him the form of a servant" (Philippians 2:7). He "came not to be ministered unto, but to minister" (Mark 10:45) to others. He showed us what a life of service (being God's servant) looks like.



### Serving Others

Worship without service is meaningless. Many times the words *worship* and *serve* are used together in the Bible. Why? "No one can long worship God in spirit and in truth before the obligation to holy service becomes too strong to resist. Fellowship with God leads straight to obedience and good works" (A. W. Tozer). How do you serve or minister to others? What is God asking you to do? In Matthew 28:19 Jesus said to "teach all nations," and Acts 1:8 says to be God's "witnesses." God needs you to teach others about Him by witnessing. This is best done through service. God's people are His hands and feet ("the body of Christ"; 1 Corinthians 12:27) and are to do what Jesus would do if He were

still here today.

Some examples of serving others include giving a cup of water in Jesus' name (Mark 9:41) and giving to those who are hungry, in need of clothing, or who are in prison (Matthew 25:35-36). James 1:27 reminds us to take care of the orphans and the widows. What are some of the ways you could minister or serve? Could you send someone a card? Could you take groceries to someone who is going through a hard time? Could you call or text someone to let them know you are thinking of and praying for them? Could you visit someone who is sick and cannot come to worship services? Could you rake leaves or mow the yard of someone who is elderly or sick? No act of service is too small or too unimportant.

There are many opportunities to witness to others by serving. The Good Samaritan in Luke, Chapter 10, stopped to help someone in need. The Bible does not say that he preached to the injured man or read the Scriptures to him, but he witnessed by serving. Jesus' words concerning this act of service was "Go, and do thou likewise" (Luke 10:37). What did the Samaritan do? He saw someone in need, and he helped him. Colossians 3:17 says, "And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus . . ." A life of service is not looking for praise or recognition. It is done through love: "We love him, because he first loved us," and "he who loveth God love his brother also" (1 John 4:19, 21). Service to others comes from a heart of love for God. "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven" (Matthew 5:16).

# Bible Quiz



1. Why is the word *service* used when describing a time of public worship? \_\_\_\_\_

2. What are some things a public worship service will include?

3. What do the words *exhort* and *edify* mean? \_\_\_\_\_

4. What are some ways to exhort or edify others during a public worship service? \_\_\_\_\_

5. What is a "living sacrifice"? \_\_\_\_\_

6. What does "reasonable service" mean? \_\_\_\_\_

7. What does it mean to "present your bodies"? \_\_\_\_\_

8. What did Jesus teach us about serving? \_\_\_\_\_

9. What does it mean to be a part of the "body of Christ"? \_\_\_\_\_

10. Why does the Christian want to serve? \_\_\_\_\_

11. How does a life of service bring glory to God? \_\_\_\_\_

# How Can I Serve?

**During a public worship service:**

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**My family:**

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**My neighbors:**

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**My classmates:**

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**My community:**

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