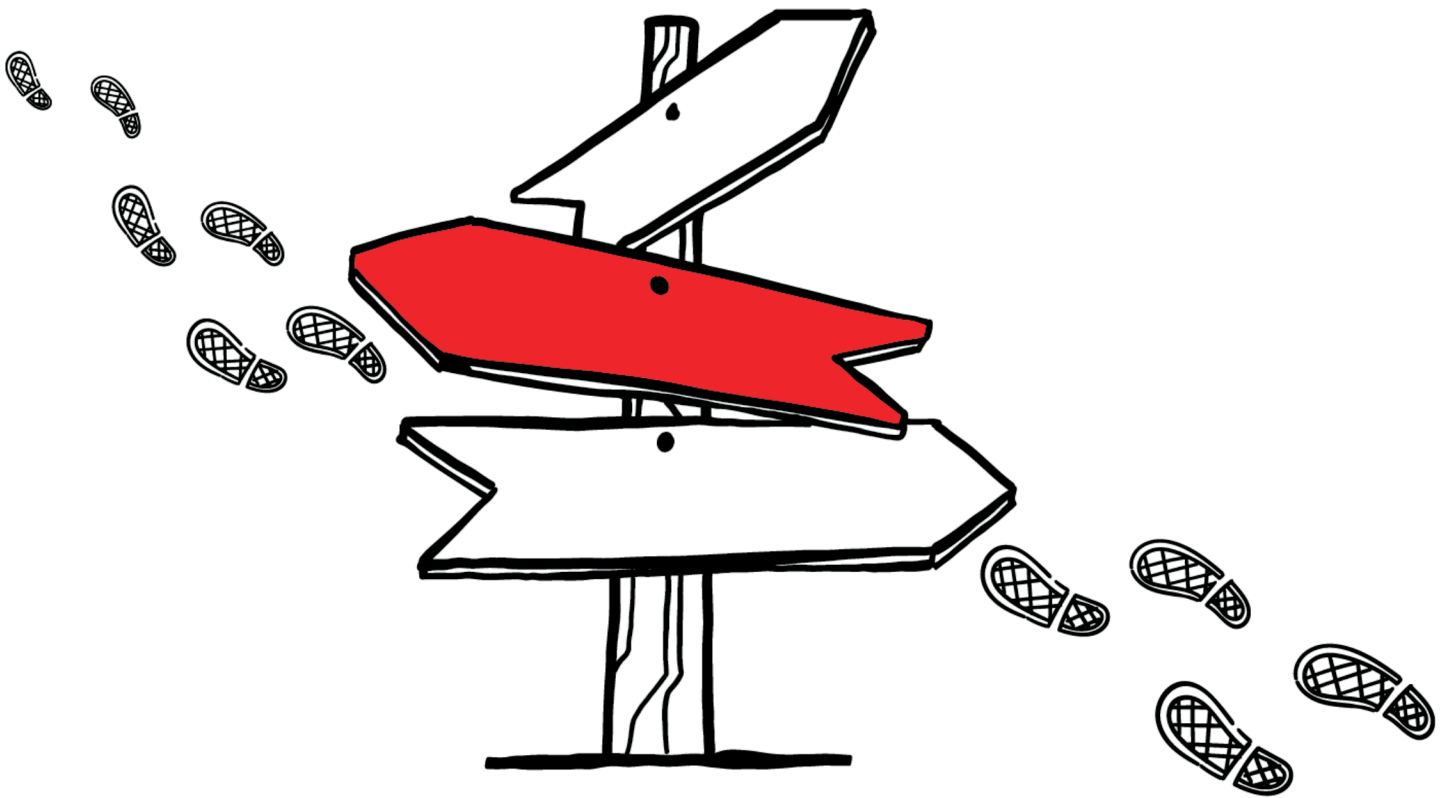


FROM RED LETTER CHALLENGE

SERVING

CHALLENGE



A 40-DAY LIFE-CHANGING JOURNEY TO SERVE LIKE JESUS

ZACH ZEHNDER

WEEKLY SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE



INTRODUCTION

You are about to embark on a 40-Day Life Changing Journey called *Serving Challenge*. In this challenge, you will learn from the greatest servant of all, Jesus Christ. After learning about Jesus, you will be challenged to practice the five aspects of serving like Jesus. Ultimately, we believe that serving like Jesus will provide you with more personal fulfillment than you ever thought possible. Before you begin your journey, take some time to go over the Group Promise together by reading it aloud. Make sure everyone understands the commitment.

GROUP PROMISE

I commit to these basic *Serving Challenge* Group Promises. This is my “ALL IN” pledge to live out Jesus’ words, both in my own life and in helping my Group do so.

- ➔ I will be on time, show up with my whole heart, and share when I attend group.
- ➔ I understand that this group is 100% confidential. Whatever is shared in the group stays in the group.
- ➔ I will respect other group members by participating openly and speaking honestly without dominating the discussions.
- ➔ I will not try to fix people, preach a sermon, or give unsolicited advice.
- ➔ When I share in the group I will share primarily about myself and not about others.
- ➔ I will trust God to work in all of us as we explore serving like Jesus together!

Ice Breaker: Describe the greatest, most incredible journey you’ve ever witnessed. This could be your own personal journey or one you have read, studied, etc. What made this journey so epic?

[WATCH SERVING CHALLENGE VIDEO FOR WEEK 1 - INTRODUCTION](#)

DISCUSSION

- 1 Do you believe there is a difference between believing in Jesus and following Jesus? If so, what is the difference? What would move a believer to become a follower?
- 2 Would you classify your life up to this point as a believer in Jesus, a follower of Jesus, or both?





DISCUSSION (CONT.)

- 3 Zach says in the introduction of *Serving Challenge*: “Despite many American Christians identifying Jesus as their Savior (still 63%) and at the same time experiencing incredible wealth in this world, two things are happening. On the outside, our collective influence is rapidly declining. And on the inside, we’re feeling and experiencing levels of burnout, exhaustion, loneliness, depression, sadness, and anxiety that, on record, we’ve never been at before.” Do you agree or disagree? Explain.
- 4 What steps would you take if you were in charge of ramping up Christianity’s influence in the world?
- 5 Zach makes the case in the introduction of *Serving Challenge* that nothing will help gain or regain our influence more than serving like Jesus. Agree/disagree.

Read **Philippians 2:5-11** and answer the following questions:

Serving Challenge will explore the five aspects of serving like Jesus found in **Philippians 2:5-11**:


- Attitude
- Availability
- Action
- Ability
- Ambition

- 6 Which one of the five aspects do you believe most prevents you from serving like Jesus? Explain.
- 7 In *Serving Challenge*, you will be encouraged to see your life as unfolding story. If someone were to read the story you have told with your life up to today, what would others learn about you? What would others learn about God from your story?
- 8 What do you hope happens in your life over the next 40 days?





CLOSING THOUGHTS

What you believe about Jesus will never change the world. How you follow Jesus could change the world. #SERVINGCHALLENGE   

Read **Matthew 20:28**: “...the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

CHALLENGE FOR THE WEEK

Invite someone to journey with you for 40 Days.

Most of the greatest challenges conquered in life are not meant for individuals to tackle alone. We hope that you will do this challenge with at least one other person, called your accountability partner. If you are joining in this challenge with your small group or your church, it's still important that you have one person who can help to hold you accountable for the duration of this challenge. Identify specifics with this person, such as how often you will check in with one another and what questions you will ask of one another at those check-ins.

PRAYER

Spend time praying together as a group as you embark on the 40-day challenge together. Ask God for encouragement, strength, honesty, perseverance, and appropriate vulnerability to help you truly become the servant God has called you to be!

*For a deeper, daily experience to go alongside the weekly small group experience, purchase *Serving Challenge: A 40-Day Life-Changing Journey to Serve Like Jesus* at www.servingchallenge.com and read the Introduction, as well as Days 1-5.





INTRODUCTION

Take some time to discuss the previous week's readings and/or challenges. Here are some things to discuss:

- ➡ Celebrate a win.
- ➡ Share a struggle.
- ➡ What did God reveal to you during the readings and/or challenges this past week?

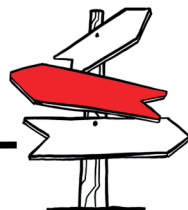
Ice Breaker: Would you describe yourself as someone who starts strong or finishes strong? Explain.

WATCH SERVING CHALLENGE VIDEO 2 - ATTITUDE

DISCUSSION

- 1 Do you believe that collectively Christians are effective or ineffective when it comes to serving like Jesus? Rate on a scale of 1-10 (1 being very ineffective and 10 being very effective) and explain your rating.
- 2 In *Serving Challenge*, Zach argues that in order to be more effective at serving like Jesus, it's not about doing better, trying harder, or gritting it out, but rather many of our serving problems start on the inside. Agree/disagree, and explain.
- 3 Read **Philippians 2:5**: "**In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus.**" Based on this verse, what top three words come to mind if you were to describe the mindset of Jesus? And why did you choose those three words?
- 4 In *Serving Challenge*, Zach mentions how scientists believe that our mental health, or lack thereof, stems from our brains. And every day, our brains go through 12,000-60,000 thoughts daily, many of which are negative, comparative, and repetitive. In order to defeat our negative thoughts, we must first recognize them. If comfortable, share a negative repetitive thought that you commonly have. Why do you think you have this thought?
- 5 What practices or habits have you found that help your mental health?
- 6 On the flip side, what practices or habits have you found detrimental to your mental health?





DISCUSSION (CONT.)

In **Philippians 4:6-9** Paul gives us a blueprint for how to defeat anxiety or poor mental health. Please read this section and then discuss it.

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable — if anything is excellent or praiseworthy — think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me — put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

- 7 Anxiety is one example of negative repetitive thoughts that come into our minds. Paul tells us not to be anxious about anything. What are common or everyday things that bring you anxiety?
- 8 Paul then says to think about things that are true, noble, right, pure, lovely, admirable, excellent, or praiseworthy. Spend time discussing each of these eight words and discussing thoughts associated with each word that we could think of to replace our negative thoughts.
- 9 What's one action you can take this week to make your mindset more like Christ's mindset towards you?

CLOSING THOUGHTS

The key to a changed life is a changed mind. #SERVINGCHALLENGE   

Read **Romans 12:2**: **Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is — his good, pleasing and perfect will.**





CHALLENGE FOR THE WEEK

This week put into practice the three-step process that the Apostle Paul lays out in

Philippians 4:6-9:

- 1 Remove the Automatic Negative Thoughts (ANTs).
- 2 Replace the ANTs with Godly Positive Thoughts (GPTs). Use the words in **Philippians 4:8** as a guide.
- 3 Repeat this practice when a negative thought triggers you.

PRAYER

Focus specifically on mental health. Pray for God's peace which passes human understanding. Spend time thanking God that He is slow to anger and abounding in compassion and love for us.

*For a deeper, daily experience to go alongside the weekly small group experience, purchase *Serving Challenge: A 40-Day Life-Changing Journey to Serve Like Jesus* at www.servingrchallenge.com and read days 6-12.





INTRODUCTION

Take some time to discuss the previous week's readings and/or challenges. Here are some things to discuss:

- ➔ Celebrate a win.
- ➔ Share a struggle.
- ➔ What did God reveal to you during the readings and/or challenges this past week?

Ice Breaker: What is the biggest time waster in your life?

[WATCH SERVING CHALLENGE VIDEO 3 - AVAILABILITY](#)

DISCUSSION

- 1 Rate on a scale of 1-10 (1 being extremely busy and 10 being nowhere near busy) how busy you are. Why do you give yourself that number?
- 2 In this session, Zach makes the claim that for many, your intentions to serve others are often in a good place, but it stops there. You intend to serve. You want to serve. Rather, the reason many don't serve others is that you don't feel like you have the space, or the time in your lives to serve. Agree/disagree? Explain.
- 3 Theologian Dallas Willard said, "Hurry is the great enemy of spiritual life in our day." When do you know you've crossed the line between being busy and living hurriedly?

Let's look at Jesus and the unhurried life that He lived. Read the following verses out loud in the group and discuss in each passage how Jesus was unhurried. If answers or help are needed, please visit Day 2 (page 29) of *Serving Challenge*.

- **Mark 1:12-13**
- **Mark 1:35**
- **Mark 2:1-12**
- **Mark 4:33-34**
- **Mark 4:37-38**
- **Mark 5:24-34**





DISCUSSION (CONT.)

Despite Jesus being busy and living with a time-bound mission of incredible consequence, He was never too hurried to miss out on the one person who needed Him in the moment.

- 4 When you get too busy or live hurriedly, who is most likely the person or people you will neglect?
- 5 Let's play a "closest to the minutes" game. How many minutes per year would you guess a person in the United States spend on their mobile devices? Answer is found at the bottom of this week's guide.
- 6 Screen Check! Both Apple and Android allow their users to check how much screen time they have used. Check last week's screen time usage and share with the group as much of the following that you are comfortable with:
 - Hours/minutes per day that you have used
 - How many phone pick-ups per day
 - The top 3 apps that are in use
- 7 After discussing those three, are there any particular Apps you realize you are spending too much time in that you can limit, or remove from your phone?
- 8 Zach makes the case that most people aren't as busy as they think. The reason you feel so busy, so hurried, and so tired, is because you are pursuing empty leisure and trivial pursuits. Agree/disagree.

Read **Isaiah 6:8**: **Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I. Send me!"**

- 9 What are one or two tangible things you can do this week to eliminate hurry from your life to be more available to serve like Jesus?

CLOSING THOUGHTS

Often times we celebrate those who have unique abilities (and we'll discuss that later in the 40-day challenge), but God will work far more through the available than the able.

#SERVINGCHALLENGE   

Read **Matthew 11:28-29**: **"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls."**



WEEK 3 | AVAILABILITY



FROM RED LETTER CHALLENGE

SERVING CHALLENGE

CHALLENGE FOR THE WEEK

Fill out the time inventory sheet at the end of the small group guide or at www.servingchallenge.com/free-resources. As you look at how you spend your time, discover one area that's just right, one that's too little, and one that's too much, and make an adjustment moving forward.

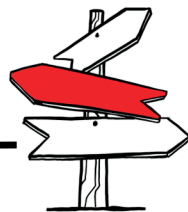
PRAYER

Spend time in prayer confessing the times we aren't available to be used by God and how we mis-prioritize our time in this world. Thank God for His grace that allows us new opportunities. Pray today for the spirit of the prophet Isaiah that whatever and whenever God calls us, we would respond with a "Here am I, send me" attitude.

*For a deeper, daily experience to go alongside the weekly small group experience, read days 13-19 of *Serving Challenge: A 40-Day Life-Changing Journey to Serve Like Jesus*.

Closest to the minute answer: According to ExplodingTopics.com, the average per day usage is 3 hours and 30 minutes, making the average minutes per year 54,750. Interestingly, another 56,210 minutes is spent on average looking at computers. Total screen time between mobile and computers is 7 hours and 4 minutes daily. This figure does not count any time that is spent on televisions.





INTRODUCTION

Take some time to discuss the previous week's readings and/or challenges. Here are some things to discuss:

- ➔ Celebrate a win.
- ➔ Share a struggle.
- ➔ What did God reveal to you during the readings and/or challenges this past week?

Ice Breaker: What is the greatest act that someone has ever done for you? Why was it so meaningful to you?

[WATCH SERVING CHALLENGE VIDEO 4 - ACTION](#)

DISCUSSION

- 1 On Day 3 of *Serving Challenge*, Zach referenced a study launched by author Daniel Pink called the "World Regret Survey." In this study, Pink found that "regret is one of the most universal emotions that human beings experience." So, let's get vulnerable now. What is a deep regret that you experience?
- 2 When it comes to regret, Pink found that, especially as we age, our deepest regrets are almost always our regrets of inaction. Not things we have done but things we have not yet done. As you listened to the regrets in the group, was Pink's finding true or false for your group?
- 3 A consistent theme in the Bible, in fact, the theme that sparked the Protestant Reformation in the 1500s is this phrase, "Justification, by grace, through faith." It emphasizes our salvation not on our own works, but on the grace God gives to us through Jesus's action, namely His perfect life, death on the cross, and resurrection from the dead. So, if we are saved by grace, what then is the purpose of good works?
- 4 Read **Ephesians 2:1-9**. Often times we stop reading at verse 9. Now read **Ephesians 2:10**:
What ought to be our response to God's grace as laid out in this verse?
- 5 Read **James 2:14-26** and answer the following questions to further explore the relationship between faith and actions.





DISCUSSION (CONT.)

- How do faith and actions go together?
- Read verse 17. Is dead faith a real thing? Do you believe that someone can believe fully in Jesus on the inside without ever performing an outside action that would prove their belief?
- Dallas Willard once said, “Grace is not opposed to effort, it is opposed to earning. Earning is an attitude. Effort is an action.” What is Dallas trying to help us understand?
- How can you better put your faith into practice?

6 Read **Philippians 2:7-8a**, which says: “...rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself...” Jesus’s continued posture in serving others was found in His humility. How are humility and serving others related?

7 When was the last time you intentionally humbled yourself? What did you do? And yes, I know that talking about your own humility is always a bit uncomfortable or ironic! ☺

8 Which of these four truths do you struggle with believing?

- Your actions can change lives.
- You don’t go alone.
- You know how the story ends.
- God can even fix what you break.

CLOSING THOUGHTS

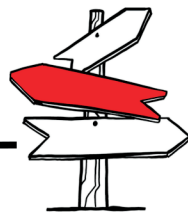
Your actions will never save you. But your actions could help save somebody else.

#SERVINGCHALLENGE   

Read **Matthew 5:16**: “In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.”



WEEK 4 | ACTION



FROM RED LETTER CHALLENGE

SERVING

CHALLENGE

CHALLENGE FOR THE WEEK

Put your faith in action. Complete as many serving suggestions for individuals as possible in the next 7 days. Also, as a bonus, organize a servant event as a group that you will participate in. This can be on your own, or if you are going through the 40-day challenge with your church, it can be a churchwide event.

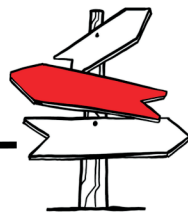
Review the Serving Suggestions Appendix at the back of this guide for serving suggestions for individuals, students, small groups, and churches.

PRAYER

Spend time in prayer today confessing your inactions. Thank God for the opportunity for new chances to be His light in this world. Pray for boldness and courage to put your faith into action.

*For a deeper, daily experience to go alongside the weekly small group experience, read days 20-26 of *Serving Challenge: A 40-Day Life-Changing Journey to Serve Like Jesus*.





INTRODUCTION

Take some time to discuss the previous week's readings and/or challenges. Here are some things to discuss:

- ➔ Celebrate a win.
- ➔ Share a struggle.
- ➔ What did God reveal to you during the readings and/or challenges this past week?

Ice Breaker: Have you ever had a job or task just so outside of your comfort zone? What was it, and why did it push you into discomfort?

[WATCH SERVING CHALLENGE VIDEO 5 - ABILITY](#)

DISCUSSION

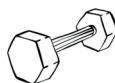
- 1 In *Serving Challenge*, Zach mentions that a person's abilities and purpose often align. Agree/disagree.
- 2 What are the best ways for a person to discover their unique abilities?
- 3 The Bible tells us that every single believer has a spiritual gift. What is the difference between a spiritual gift and a natural ability or talent?

Read **1 Corinthians 12:1-11** and answer the following questions:

- 4 What is the purpose of spiritual gifts according to verse 7?
- 5 Do you know your spiritual gifts? If yes, explain.

Read **1 Corinthians 12:12-31** and answer the following questions:

- 6 Count how many times the following words are used in these verses:
 - Body
 - One
 - Many
- 7 Why does Paul use these three words so often in this text?
- 8 What is Paul's point in comparing the church to a human body?
- 9 Do you feel like you have a clear understanding of how you can use your unique abilities to help the mission of the church? What are those unique abilities?





DISCUSSION (CONT.)

- I **10** What is the best team you've ever been on? What qualities made it the best team?
- II **11** Only Jesus had the unique ability to save us from our sins. He had a crystal-clear purpose for what His role was in this world. Do your best to summarize your life purpose in a sentence.

CLOSING THOUGHTS

We can't make God move, but we can make room for God to move. When we can match our availability to serve with the unique ability God has put inside each of us, we give the Holy Spirit room to move mightily. #SERVINGCHALLENGE   

Read **1 Peter 4:10**: "Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms."

CHALLENGE FOR THE WEEK

Take the Red Letter Spiritual Gift Test found at www.spiritualgifts.me. After taking the test, identify your top three spiritual gifts. Put one of your spiritual gifts into practice in a tangible way over the next seven days.

PRAYER

Spend time praying that each person in the group would gain greater clarity on their overall purpose in life and how God has uniquely gifted them. Pray for boldness and courage to use the gifts and abilities for the glory of God.




*For a deeper, daily experience to go alongside the weekly small group experience, read days 27-33 of *Serving Challenge: A 40-Day Life-Changing Journey to Serve Like Jesus*.





INTRODUCTION

Take some time to discuss the previous week's readings and/or challenges. Here are some things to discuss:

-  Celebrate a win.
-  Share a struggle.
-  What did God reveal to you during the readings and/or challenges this past week?

Ice Breaker: Pick a favorite sport or profession and tell everyone who is the GOAT (Greatest of All Time) in that field. What makes that individual the best?

WATCH SERVING CHALLENGE VIDEO 6 - AMBITION

DISCUSSION

- 1** On Day 5 of *Serving Challenge*, Zach says, "Ambition in its correct form is a beautiful thing. Its definition, according to Oxford Languages, is 'a strong desire to do or achieve something, typically requiring determination and hard work.'" How have you seen ambition played out in this world? Positive, negative, or both. Explain.
- 2** Read the Bible verses below that speak to ambition. Discuss what each verse teaches you about ambition.
 - **Colossians 3:23**
 - **Ephesians 6:7**
 - **1 Thessalonians 4:11**
 - **Matthew 6:33**
 - **2 Corinthians 5:9-11**
 - **1 Corinthians 10:24**
 - **Philippians 2:3**
 - **Galatians 1:10**
 - **Acts 20:24**
- 3** In *Serving Challenge*, you have been looking at the greatest servant of all time, Jesus Christ. Jesus willingly chose to lose, suffer, and lower Himself so that you might win. Zach writes, "Serving like Jesus requires losing, and too many of us are obsessed with winning." Have you ever intentionally chosen to lose or to suffer? Explain.





DISCUSSION (CONT.)

- 4 A major theme in *Serving Challenge* is that each of you is telling a story about your life. If someone were to look at the life you lived thus far, what would you be remembered for?
- 5 Zach shared a story in his family about a decision that his great-grandfather made 100 years ago that is still causing positive ripple effects in his life. What is a decision that someone made, positive or negative, that has had a great impact on your life?
- 6 Pastor Chris Hodges said, “What we do for ourselves usually dies with us. What we do for others’ lives beyond us.” What is something you can do for others that will live beyond yourself?
- 7 If you had to explain your life’s ambition in one sentence what would it be?
- 8 What is one key takeaway you have learned about serving like Jesus that you will implement in your life?

CLOSING THOUGHTS

The best way to make your life count is to live for a purpose that will outlive you.

#SERVINGCHALLENGE   

Read **Philippians 2:5-11** one last time, celebrating the Christ Hymn in which we have spent the past 40 days. You could have one person read the entire passage or have each verse read by a different person.

CHALLENGE FOR THE WEEK

Plan an opportunity to continue serving as a group, whether a one-time event or an ongoing opportunity to serve through your local church or a non-profit organization.

As a bonus challenge, join the FREE Red Letter Community for ongoing discipleship challenges, podcasts featuring world-class disciples, Jesus-centered blogs, new Bible reading plans, etc. You can join at www.redlettercommunity.com.



WEEK 6 | AMBITION



FROM RED LETTER CHALLENGE

SERVING

CHALLENGE

PRAYER

Spend time praying that God would give you a holy ambition. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal your next steps and give you the courage to take those steps.

*For a deeper, daily experience to go alongside the weekly small group experience, read days 34-41 of *Serving Challenge: A 40-Day Life-Changing Journey to Serve Like Jesus*.



WEEK 3 | TIME INVENTORY SHEET



FROM RED LETTER CHALLENGE

SERVING

CHALLENGE

TIME INVENTORY

	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT	SUN
Sleep							
Work/ Education							
Exercise/ Personal Care							
Family/ Friends							
Screen & TV Time							
Hobbies							
God/Faith							



APPENDIX | SERVING SUGGESTIONS



FROM RED LETTER CHALLENGE

SERVING CHALLENGE

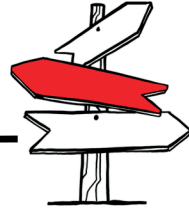
Have you ever noticed that cereal boxes post pictures of fresh fruit on the front of their boxes? When you open the box, however, there is no fresh fruit inside. As you look further at the box, you will typically find a section that says “serving suggestions.” Just as the cereal makers give you suggestions of how to best use your cereal, here are some simple “serving suggestions” to get you moving in the right direction.

FOR INDIVIDUALS

- Meet a neighbor.
- Make and deliver a baked good to a neighbor.
- Invite and make plans to have a neighbor over for dinner.
- Start tithing (giving 10 percent of your income) to your church.
- Skip a meal out and donate the money to a local charity.
- Offer to babysit or watch someone’s kids.
- Make and deliver chemo care packages.
- Offer to give your time for an entire day to someone you know. Let them set the agenda.
- Listen to someone who is hurting.
- Visit someone from your church in the hospital. The church staff can help you with this.
- Talk with someone who is doing local prison ministry to see how you can help.
- Write a letter forgiving someone who has hurt you. (Pray, no matter if you deliver that letter to them or just keep it for yourself.)
- Initiate a conversation with a family member or friend whom you haven’t talked to in years.
- Deliver a meal to someone in need.
- Clean up a local park.
- Serve at a soup kitchen or food pantry.
- Volunteer at your church.
- Donate clothes you haven’t used in a long time to a homeless shelter.
- Spend \$100 on groceries and give them all to the local food pantry.
- Give your waiter or waitress a ridiculously generous tip...try to at least match the total of the bill.
- Talk to someone in a different generation to understand what they are going through.
- Investigate serving on a mission trip individually or with your family.
- Organize and throw a block party.
- Knock on your neighbors’ doors and ask if they have any prayer requests that you can pray for.
- Buy fast food for the next person in line.
- Send an email, handwritten note, or text to someone you are thankful for and tell them why you are thankful for them.



APPENDIX | SERVING SUGGESTIONS



FROM RED LETTER CHALLENGE SERVING CHALLENGE

FOR INDIVIDUALS (CONT.)

- Hold the door open for everyone as they enter or exit the building. Give them a word of encouragement as they pass you by.
- Send a Bible verse as an encouragement to someone in your life.
- Organize and throw a party for your child's sports team. Hint: Try to do this at the beginning of the season, rather than at the end, to ensure more time for relationships to build.
- Mow your neighbor's lawn or shovel your neighbor's driveway.
- Go through the books you no longer need and give them away.
- Clean out your cupboard and pantry and donate extra (non-expired) goods to a local food pantry.
- Send a text to ten of the most influential people in your life and tell them you are praying for them. Ask them if they have any specific prayer needs.
- Buy extra tickets to a local event/show/sporting event and give them to those who otherwise wouldn't go.
- When eating out at a restaurant, buy someone else's dinner.
- If you have kids, buy a gift for a teacher and send an encouraging note on a day that's not teacher appreciation day.
- As you scroll through social media, choose a Facebook friend. Then write a blessing on their profile and lift them up in a meaningful way.
- Invite a local non-profit leader to lunch to learn about the ministry.
- Buy a stack of \$10 gift cards over the next week and randomly give them away to those that you feel could use an act of kindness.
- Ask your friends or those in your network if they are interested in a Bible study or small group with you.
- Ask someone what their dream is and suggest one way you could help them achieve it.
- Pick up trash for an hour.
- Mail someone a book you love that you think they would benefit from.
- Apologize for something you have done wrong in the past toward someone.
- Help organize a charity event.
- Promote someone else's idea for a day in as many ways as you can without even letting that person know.
- Spend time with someone who looks "out of place."
- Tell the ten most influential people in your life "thank you," whether it's in person or via text, email, or handwritten note. Be sure to use the words "thank you."
- Cancel somebody's debt.
- Donate blood.
- Sponsor a child through a Christian sponsorship organization.
- Collect coins for those in need and donate them to local charity.



APPENDIX | SERVING SUGGESTIONS



FROM RED LETTER CHALLENGE

SERVING CHALLENGE

FOR STUDENTS

- Do your parents' least favorite chore.
- Sit next to the not-so-popular kid at school.
- Write a note to your teachers, letting them know how much you appreciate them.
- Leave a dollar in a vending machine for the next person to use.
- Make some encouraging signs and post them around your school.
- Ding-dong-ditch, but leave a nice gift on someone's doorstep as you run away!
- Let your brother or sister pick the television show to watch.
- Donate time to babysit for a couple who could use a night out together.
- Offer to help serve in the kids or student ministry for those who are one or two grades lower than you.
- Investigate what upcoming mission trips your church may have for students or kids.
- Do a chore for a brother or sister without letting them know.
- Work as a family and create bags to give to the homeless. Ideas for what to put inside are a kind note, a Bible, a \$5 gift card to a grocery store, granola bars, peanut butter, travel-sized toiletries, an invite card to church, etc.
- Do the dishes without being asked.
- Go through your neighborhood with a wagon to collect canned goods for a local food pantry.
- Write an encouraging and thankful letter to someone serving in the military overseas.
- Read a book aloud to younger children at your local library.
- Collect personal items and baby necessities to give to a local women's shelter.
- Help a younger sibling clean their room.
- Clean up trash at a local park.
- Organize a garage sale or set up a lemonade stand and donate all the proceeds to a local charity.
- Help your family make some baked goods and deliver them to the local police, fire, or EMT station.
- Help a younger sibling with his or her homework.
- Visit a local retirement home and offer to play board games with the residents.
- Ask a teacher if there's anything you can do to help them.
- Find your outgrown clothes and donate them to a local charity or friend.



APPENDIX | SERVING SUGGESTIONS



FROM RED LETTER CHALLENGE

SERVING CHALLENGE

FOR A CHURCH OR SMALL GROUP

- **Day 9:** Do a community car wash together.
- **Day 11, 19, or 20:** Give an extravagantly big gift today to a non-profit or charity that you support.
- **Day 16:** Volunteer to lead the meal at the local soup kitchen.
- **Day 18:** Surprisingly bless one person or one organization in your local area in a ridiculously big way.
- **Day 22:** Host an event to help right a wrong or to bring awareness to an injustice in your community.
- **Day 24:** Take a first step as a church to learn about a new ministry, mission, or event that you have been thinking about.
- **Day 25:** Gather your church together to serve a group of people that you have not served in the past.
- **Day 30:** Organize a day in which people can use their spiritual gifts to serve each other inside the church.
- **Day 32:** Organize an activity or event to bless a local non-profit or ministry near you.
- **Day 33:** Share your wildest dream as a church on your social media and ask people to consider one thing they could do to be a part of accomplishing this God-sized dream.
- **Day 36:** Covertly bless a local non-profit or church and do as many things as you can in a 24-hour period to help them.
- **Day 37:** Organize a serving day and encourage your church to go out and serve the community in their own unique ways.
- **Day 40:** Culminate the closing of *Serving Challenge* by hosting a serving event.
- **Day 41:** Share testimonies and celebrate together all that God did in the midst of the 40-day *Serving Challenge*.

Remember to snap a pic and share with [#ServingChallenge](#) when doing a challenge together with your church or small group!



FUN

INSPIRING

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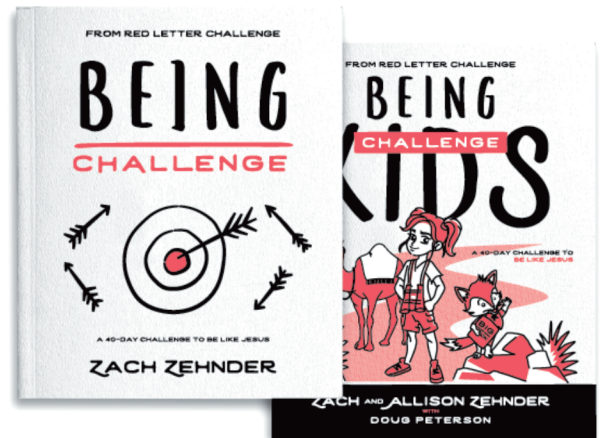


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