

THE DECISION TO SERVE

“For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many.” (Marcos 10:45 NLT)

INTRODUCTION: Imagine for a moment that you are at a fancy dinner. Around the table there are important people, leaders, and among them, Jesus. At one point, Jesus gets up, takes a towel, and begins to wash the guests' feet. This act of humility and service is a reflection of his entire life and ministry. Jesus did not come to be served, but to serve and give his life as a ransom for many (*Mark 10:45*).

In our society, we often value power, position, and prestige. But Jesus showed us a different path: The path of service. Serving others is not only an act of love and humility, but also a path to personal and spiritual healing. By choosing to serve, we follow in Jesus' footsteps and discover a life filled with purpose, connection, and blessings..

Today, in this fourth week of our "Decisions That Heal" series, we will learn the importance of the decision to serve. We will see how this act of love and sacrifice can transform our hearts, our relationships, and our community. Through three key points, we will learn how service not only benefits others, but also heals us and brings us closer to God.

1. THE EXAMPLE OF JESUS.

- **Humility in Service:** Jesus, being God, humbled himself to serve others (Philippians. 2:5-7). We must adopt an attitude of humility, recognizing that no service is too small or insignificant.
- **Sacrificial Service:** Jesus gave his life for us (John 15:13). We are called to sacrifice our time, resources, and comfort for the well-being of others.

- **Service as leadership:** Jesus showed that true leadership is through service (*Mark. 10:43-44*). Leading by serving others shows true character and christian love.

2. PERSONAL TRANSFORMATION.

- **Development of humility:** Serving helps us put others first and develop genuine humility. For that you need to begin to practice acts of service daily in a selfless way.
- **Strengthening character:** Service shapes and strengthens us spiritually, fostering empathy, patience and compassion. Look for opportunities to serve that challenge you and take you out of your comfort zone.
- **Connection with God:** By serving, we connect more deeply with the heart of God, who is the greatest servant. Spend time praying and seeking God's guidance on how you can best serve others.

3. HOW TO START SERVING?

- **Identify your Gifts and talents:** (Romans 12:6-8) Each of us has unique abilities that God has given us to serve. Make a list of your talents and look for ways to use them to help others.
- **Start small:** You don't need to do great things to start serving. Start with small acts of kindness in your home, work or church.
- **Commit to serving regularly:** Find a regular and consistent way to serve in your church. Get involved in a ministry or project that needs your gifts. Example: Open a CG as a host or facilitator, etc.

3. BENEFITS OF SERVING:

- **We grow in humility.** By serving we develop a humble and grateful heart.
- **Strengthens relationships:** Service fosters deeper, more meaningful relationships.
- **Enriches our spiritual life:** By serving, we grow closer to God and His purpose for our lives.

CONCLUSION: Serving is not just an action, it's an attitude of life. It's recognizing that while we can't solve all the world's problems, we can make a difference in someone's life. Every act of service, no matter how small, is a reflection of God's unconditional love.

Remember, in the kingdom of God, true greatness is found in serving. By embracing this truth, we will not only heal our lives, but we will also bring healing and hope to a world in need. But besides the external benefits, by serving, something changes within us. We become more like Jesus.

INTERACTIVE QUESTIONS:

- How can you follow Jesus' example in your daily life through service?
- What areas of your character can be transformed through acts of service?
- How can you start serving today with the resources and skills you have?

PRACTICAL APPLICATION:

1. **Take the decision to serve.** Allow God to use you to be a blessing in the

lives of others. Find a place in the church where you can offer your time and skills. At ECFC there is a place for you.

2. **Serve in small, everyday ways:** Perform small acts of service in your home, work, or neighborhood, such as helping a coworker, neighbor, or friend.
3. **Pray for guidance and opportunities:** Dedicate time to pray and ask God to show you where and how you can live more effectively.

SALVATION PRAYER: *Lord Jesus I recognize that I have sinned and that you died for me. Today I repent and ask for forgiveness. I give you my life and my heart so you can be my lord and personal savior, amen.*