

Read this to yourself and share it with your team before you serve; our hope is that your heart is encouraged as you go out and serve!

## Making a difference

As God's stewards, we have the opportunity and responsibility to make a difference by serving the Lord. God has empowered us to faithfully use our gifts, passions and talents to positively impact our churches, communities and the world.

Reflect on the account of the tongue-tied Moses, whom God equipped to be the leader of a vast nation. Study the life of David, an obscure shepherd boy, whom God used to defeat a giant and prepared to be king of Israel. Marvel at God's patience with Gideon, who asked God for test after test before he was confident enough to undertake the task God entrusted to him. We might find new situations and challenges to be risky or uncomfortable, but just as God was with Moses, David and Gideon, the Lord will be with us in all we undertake in God's name.

Let's compare the cooperation of the body of Christ to that of a basketball team. The success of the team depends on the contribution of each player. The guards need to bring the ball down the court, run the offense, make the correct passes, and contribute in scoring. The forwards and the center need to rebound and score. All of the positions work together on defense. Each team member plays an essential role on the team and has extraordinary value to the coach and other players. If one of them fails to contribute, the whole team suffers.

We too, as followers of Christ, have a part to contribute on God's team. As Romans 12:4-5 says, "For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others."

When we choose to give our time, energy and talents to serve others, we are taking part in God's work to share the love of Christ and give God glory. With God working in us and through us, we can make a difference!

## Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father, we thank you for giving us gifts and talents to use in service and love for others. Place in our hearts a desire to live faithfully and do the things you have prepared in advance for us to do. Today we pray that you would bless the work of our hands. May we be good stewards of your blessings and may many lives and hearts be impacted today. May all honor and glory be yours. Amen.



## Additional scriptures to consider:

Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.

—James 1:17

For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

—Ephesians 2:10

Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever.

—1 Peter 4:10-11

