

# TAKEAWAY

## HEALTHY HOUSEHOLDS



### Part Three: Serving

*At Maybridge we want to be a church of disciples who make disciples – we hope this takeaway session encourages practical outcomes in the lives of the individuals in your group. The focus of group discussion should be on becoming 'doers of the word' and not just hearers or people who enjoy a good discussion!*

#### DESIRED OUTCOMES

*You don't necessarily need to share these, but be aware as a leader to help steer discussion.*

- To understand the balance between serving sacrificially and resting in God's strength
- To identify where God is calling us to step up in service within our church community
- To recognise that fruitful service begins with God's initiative, not our own efforts
- To explore how ordinary offerings can have extraordinary impact when blessed by God

As always, there are more questions and discussion prompts than you'll have time for, so feel free to use what is helpful for your group as time allows and discussion flows.

#### INTRODUCTION

We believe that because Jesus is God, it's worth listening to what he says about how to live. This series is the opportunity to think practically about what following him looks like in different key areas of life. In this session, we begin thinking about serving.

#### SHARE

- Who comes to mind as an example of someone sacrificially serving? What impact has their example had on you?
- Share about a time when someone loved you by meeting one of your practical needs, whether big or small. What made that experience memorable for you?

#### READ

**Psalm 127:1-2**

**Matthew 14:13-21**

#### DISCUSS

What does Psalm 127 have to say about human effort? How does it change our perspective on serving others?

As followers of Jesus, we can make two equal and opposite mistakes when it comes to serving: thinking our work doesn't matter because God is in control, or thinking we don't need God because we know what we're doing. Which one do you tend towards?

Jesus is grieving when the crowds follow him yet he still serves them, healing the sick. Why and how do you think he is able to do so (verse 14)?

In what ways have you personally experienced the tension between serving and rest? Have you ever experienced a time when serving others actually refreshed you rather than depleting you? What made the difference?

How do we discern when it's right to push through and serve despite our circumstances, versus when we genuinely need to step back and rest?

Looking at the feeding of the 5000, the disciples had to cooperate with what Jesus initiated. What might this look like in our own serving today?

What does it mean practically to do things "with the strength God provides" rather than in our own strength? How can we tell the difference?

Does your service cost you something... do you feel it, does it inconvenience you? How did you respond to that question?

What ordinary, everyday people or places come to your mind as you think about opportunities to serve others? Think of a person or think of an act you could do to serve others in one small way. Talk through this week's 'Try outs' and discuss what this might look like:

### **TRY OUT**

- Prayerfully consider one area of service in the church where you could step up. Find out where there is a need, and make yourself available to meet that need – perhaps moving from your "comfort zone" to something that stretches you.
- Practice hospitality this week by inviting someone round for a meal or meeting up with someone for a coffee
- Before starting tasks this week, pause to pray and invite God into the work – especially things you normally just "get on with" in your own strength.
- If you are unsure of where to serve or where your spiritual gifting may lie, read through the gifts and roles God has given to the Church and take the spiritual gifts survey to reflect on where and how God may be calling you to serve others:

[https://maybridge.org.uk/app/uploads/2024/06/Spiritual\\_Gifts\\_List-Assessment.pdf](https://maybridge.org.uk/app/uploads/2024/06/Spiritual_Gifts_List-Assessment.pdf)

### **PRAY**

- If anyone feels like they are "eating the bread of anxious toil", pray for them, that God will give them rest and help them to find purpose in what they do.
- As Maybridge grows into what God's calling us to, there will be more that needs to be done. Pray that in the harvest God sends, "workers" will willingly and faithfully step up to serve.