



Everything we've got



Serve • Give • Receive

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Each year, we take a few weeks to talk about what following Jesus looks like at our church, and invite one another to commit to doing so together for the year ahead.

We call this Partnership – we follow Jesus not as passive people, but as a connected community.

God doesn't simply save us *from* something, He saves us *into* a family. Church Partnership is about more than attending a service or having your name on a membership list. It's choosing to play your part in the life and mission of God's people.

Over these three weeks we'll discover that every believer is invited to serve with humility, give with generosity, and receive with gratitude. When we embrace all three, we don't just strengthen the Church, we reflect the heart of Jesus.

Partnership therefore isn't joining an organisation, it's participating in God's family and His mission. Every believer is called to serve, give and receive.

Healthy churches are built when all three are present.

GUIDELINES FOR LEADING GROUP SESSIONS

TAKEAWAYS

We hope these takeaways sessions can help groups continue to grow and learn more together.

Groups work best when we are able to encourage one another to be 'doers of the word' and not just hearers or people who enjoy a good discussion! These takeaway sessions are designed so that anyone can give leading a go. Here's a little bit about of information each section and some guidance on how to lead them.

INTRODUCTION

Each session has an introduction that shares and explains a little about the teaching series/passage of scripture and theme. It can be read out and is helpful to keep this in mind when steering discussion.

SHARE

These are intentionally accessible questions (like icebreakers) so everyone has the opportunity to comment and share. They can be used in pairs to discuss together and then give feedback to the whole group (if enabling everyone to speak to the whole group is difficult).

READ

The passage/s we want to unpack. Read them together, preferably once aloud and then giving time for people read through themselves in quiet.

DISCUSS

People grow and change when they discover something for themselves – not when someone tells them. The aim of discussion questions is to help create conversation and for group members to discover and go deeper in their understanding of scriptural truths.

It's about encouraging moments of sharing and insight from others in a non-threatening environment that allows for doubts to be expressed, questions (nothing is too silly), and silence (not all will have anything to contribute to the discussion). Allow moments of openness and off-topic tangents to shape your group meeting.

Remember – we want groups to help everyone *know Jesus, love Jesus and copy Jesus* - That means moving beyond just giving information and sharing our opinions together and ultimately to helping others discover and apply the truth we find in scripture.

There are often more questions than you can cover in one group session, so feel free to pick and choose ones that are helpful or that flow with the natural discussion of the group.

TRY OUT

These are a list of ideas to help you carry out the teaching into your week. You can add your own or take the opportunity to ask the group how they might live out some of the learnings in their day-to-day life.

They are about:

- Inspiring curiosity, so it must not feel like a 'to do' list or pressured in any way.
- Being real and thinking about what's coming up in their lives that could be opportunities to put teaching into practice.
- Being accountable – encouraging people to name what they might try this week (even if they need prayer for it), and asking them to prepare to share their experiences at the next meeting.

Most 'Try Out' options will likely be for individuals to try on their own. But you may like to consider some options that are for the group to do service together.

PRAY & REFLECT

Prayer points around the sermon/ session theme may be included to help you pray for one another, or there is space for the facilitator to lead:

- Feedback on answered prayer for praise items from your group
- Sharing stories for encouragement – more prayer and worship
- Praying for help into what they have committed to try. We want to encourage reliance on God's help to deepen discipleship relationship to Jesus.
- Prayer for personal needs

PART 1:

SERVE

JOHN 13:3-17

INTRODUCTION

Each year, we take a few weeks to talk about what following Jesus looks like at our church, and invite one another to commit to doing so together for the year ahead. We call this Partnership.

God doesn't simply save us from something, He saves us into a family. We follow Jesus not as passive people, but as a connected community. Every believer is invited to serve with humility, give with generosity, and receive with gratitude. When we embrace all three, we don't just strengthen the Church, we reflect the heart of Jesus.

In this session we're going to explore what it means to serve, unpacking the account where Jesus washes His disciples feet the night before His death.

SHARE

- When you hear the word 'serving', what immediately comes to mind?
- What kinds of things do you associate with serving in church?
- Can you think of a time when someone served you in a way that really affected you? What made it meaningful?

SHARE & REFLECT

You may find it helpful to watch (from 2:10-11:45 minutes) a dramatised version of this passage from *The Chosen* series:

youtu.be/p0H8sXNW2BA?si=UNXy309hYTNmIVVr



READ

John 13:3-17

REFLECT & SHARE

Give space for people to re-read the passage and share any initial observations. It's not necessarily about answering the group's questions at this stage, more an opportunity to share before working through the discussion questions.

- What stands out from the passage? Why?
- What do I find difficult in the passage? What questions does it raise?

DISCUSS

Jesus knew He had '*all authority*' (verse 3), yet He took the position of a slave. What does this suggest about the relationship between greatness and humility?

Why do you think Jesus' act of serving was so uncomfortable for Peter? Do we ever have similar reactions to allowing others—or God—to serve us?

Jesus uses strong language to say we have 'no part' of him unless he serves you first. What does it look like to let him serve you first?

What does healthy serving look like? What are the tell-tale signs that serving has moved from joyful generosity into people-pleasing, guilt, control, or burnout?

What are some ways we might accidentally turn Christianity into "I need to do things for God so that I'm a good Christian"? How do we avoid this happening?

Jesus washed Judas' feet despite knowing Judas would betray Him. What does that raise for you about serving people who disappoint, frustrate, or oppose us?

If every person at MCC genuinely lived out "I have come not just to receive but to serve," what would change about the church?

Jesus had all authority, and deserved to be served, yet chose humility. He served people who would fail Him. He served before going to the cross. He didn't simply command service—He modelled it. There's no such thing as following Jesus without serving sacrificially.

What practical ways might you go about seeking to sacrificially serve others in the weeks ahead?

Discuss the 'Try outs' and share how you might go about living out some of the challenges that have been discussed.

TRY OUTS

- Reflect on the people who you find easiest to serve? Who do you find hardest to serve? Why do you think that is? Pray and reflect on how could you serve them over the next few weeks?
- Volunteer for something at church you wouldn't normally do, get in touch with the Staff Team about current serving gaps – email ***info@maybridge.org.uk*** or fill in the form ***maybridge.org.uk/get-stuck-in***
- Serve in your own community – help a neighbour, offer practical support to someone in need, volunteer for the task no-one likes to do at work.

PRAY & REFLECT

Pray together that God would transform us to be more like Jesus as we seek to serve. Ask for the Holy Spirit's help with the things that came up in discussion. You may find it helpful to share a prayer, scripture, or to listen to a worship song that helps you reflect and pray:

**The Servant King –
Graham Kendrick**

***youtu.be/A0FSZ_iSY08?
si=ZOBVS9d6BCOs01aD***



PART 2:

GIVE

1-2 CORINTHIANS

INTRODUCTION

We follow Jesus not as passive people, but as a connected community invited to serve with humility, give with generosity, and receive with gratitude.

Throughout the Bible, giving financially was always a trait of God's people. In this session we're going to explore that giving isn't simply about fundraising—it's about participating in God's grace. Grasping that produces generosity.

SHARE

- Who is the most generous person you know, and what makes their generosity stand out to you?
- When you think about generosity, what do you think makes someone genuinely generous rather than simply someone who gives occasionally?

READ

1 Corinthians 16:1-4

2 Corinthians 8:1-5

2 Corinthians 9:1-12

Romans 15:26

REFLECT & SHARE

Give space for people to re-read the passages and then share any initial observations before working through the discussion questions.

- What stands out from the passages? Why?
- What do I find difficult in the passages? What questions do they raise?

DISCUSS

The passages presents five different New Testament words used by Paul that describe giving: practical, ministry, blessing, worship, and fellowship. Which of those challenges or interests you most, and why?

EXPLAIN

The passage gives us various words which explain that giving is:

1 Corinthians 16:1

Logeia = collect (It's practical)

2 Corinthians 8:4

Diakonia = ministry (It's the work of God)

2 Corinthians 9:5

Eulogia = blessing (It's good for you)

2 Corinthians 9:12

Leitourgia = priestly act (It's worship)

Romans 15:26

Koinonia = fellowship
(It's part of life together)

Paul describes giving as a priestly or liturgical act (2 Corinthians 9:12). What does that idea change about how you think about giving to a church offering or charity?

If giving reflects the character of a God who gives Himself for us, what does our generosity say about the God we believe in?

What difference does it make to think of giving not as “losing money” but as participating in God’s work? Why might generosity actually make us freer rather than poorer?

Paul emphasises the practical aspect of giving: organise it, make a plan, give regularly. Why might having a deliberate plan for generosity be better than simply giving when we happen to feel generous?

What does financial giving communicate about our commitment to a church family?

If someone genuinely doesn't have enough money to give right now, what do you think a healthy Christian attitude towards giving should be?

If you are 100% honest, what do you think your current approach to money says about what you trust and value?

Is there an area of your financial life where you think Jesus might be challenging you to trust Him more? (You could pray about this later).

If MCC became known as an unusually generous church, what difference could that make to the people around us?

Discuss the ‘try outs’ and share – what is one practical, intentionally generous thing you could do to begin shaping a

habit of giving or generosity?

TRY OUTS

- Create space this week for an act of generosity. Set aside a specific amount of money – it can be a little or a lot, whatever you decide. Ask God to give you an opportunity to bless someone in a small way. Here’s a few ideas to spark your imagination:
 - Buy someone in line behind you coffee or anonymously pay for someone’s meal when out.
 - Drop off food shopping or a gift to someone you know in need or in a time of suffering.
 - Send money digitally to help a friend with expenses they can’t currently pay.
 - Give away one of your possessions.
- Spend time reviewing your finances and giving – reflect: do my circumstances mean a change in my giving at the moment (down or up)? You may find it helpful to use the budget tool in our ‘*God, Church & Giving*’ leaflet at maybridge.org.uk/resources or download the budget tool here: maybridge.org.uk/app/uploads/2026/02/MCC-Budget-Tool.pdf.

PRAY & REFLECT

Pray together that God would transform us to be more like Jesus as we seek to reflect his generosity. Ask for the Holy Spirit’s help with the things that came up in discussion – areas where we need his help or to trust Him more.

PART 2:

RECEIVE

1 CORINTHIANS 12:12-26

INTRODUCTION

We follow Jesus not as passive people, but as a connected community. The apostle Paul describes the early church as a body – each part is needed and dependant on the others.

In this session we'll explore how Partnership isn't only about what I contribute; it's also about being humble enough to receive from others.

SHARE

- Which part of the human body are you most like, and why? “Are you an eye, an ear, a foot, an elbow...?”
- Can you think of a time when another church members' particular gift has benefited you personally? How so?
- What would you say to someone who says they have nothing to contribute to their church?

READ

1 Corinthians 12:12-26

REFLECT & SHARE

Give space for people to re-read the passages and then share any initial observations before working through the discussion questions.

- What stands out from the passage? Why?
- What do I find difficult in the passage? What questions does it raise?

DISCUSS

Paul writes to a young church that is made up of people from different ethnicities, cultures and backgrounds. What would it look like for a church to move beyond simply being “diverse” to actually allowing different cultures to shape the way it thinks and operates?

Are there aspects of our own culture that you've come to recognise as “just cultural” rather than necessarily Christian?

Just like the physical human body, church only functions when every part both gives *and* receives. However, most people are comfortable either serving or staying independent. Paul says ‘*The eye cannot say to the hand, 'I don't need you...' (verse 21).* Why can being helped feel more uncomfortable than helping someone else?

Why do you think we sometimes struggle to let other people use their gifts to serve us?

What happens to a church when everyone tries to do the same things—or when only the most obvious gifts are valued?

What is the difference between healthy independence and refusing help because of pride?

How might we treat people differently if we genuinely believed that those who “seem weaker” are indispensable?

What are some ways we can support and make sure that people who are sick, struggling, elderly, new, or going through a difficult season don't feel like second-class Partners?

Is receiving from others actually part of Christian maturity? Why might becoming more dependent on the church community sometimes be a sign of growth rather than weakness?

What would change if we genuinely believed that needing other people is part of God's design rather than a failure of our own strength?

TRY OUTS

- Reflect: what does it look like to be open to receive from others in the church?
- Is there something practical you could ask for help with?
- Is there something you are struggling with that you could reach out to a trusted friend to receive prayer and support for?
- Who could you encourage this week? Someone you noticed who always serves? Write a postcard or message to share your appreciation of another church member who's particular gift has benefited you in recent times!

PRAY & REFLECT

Pray together. For God's help with the things that came up in discussion and for the church to grow in becoming the family and body Christ intended.



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