



# CONNECT *with* GOD SERVICE

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## VIDEO NOTES

Sin separates us into our own self-centered worlds. Sin whispers to us that we'll be happier if we spend all of our time and resources on ourselves.

If you want to be happy,  
you have to find a way to give your life away.

## THE ACTS OF THE FLESH

*The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.*

**Galatians 5:19–21**

Selfishness is pleasure for you at someone else's expense—even when you don't get caught and no one holds you accountable.

The acts of the flesh are associated with appetites. They're never satisfied. When you feed an appetite, it grows. And when you can't satisfy an appetite, you get angry.

## THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

*But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.*

**Galatians 5:22–23**

Selfishness is natural, but it's not by design. You were created to live a life characterized by the fruit of the Spirit.

The value of a life is always measured by how much of it was given away.

- Giving your life away makes you great.
- We admire selfless people.
- If you want to be happy, you have to find a way to systematically give your life away.

You were designed by the Giver of life to give your life away.

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## QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION OR DISCUSSION

If you're in a group, use these questions to have a conversation about how you can support and encourage one another as you explore service. If you're not in a group, reflect on these questions to help you consider what it would look like for you to connect with God through service.

1. Is your current life too much about feeding your appetites? Why or why not?
2. Are you already serving someone through the church or a nonprofit? Are you serving others through your own initiative? If so, do you need to take steps to make that service more systematic?
3. Church is one of the best places to serve on a regular basis because it offers lots of places to plug in—Guest Services, Children's and Student's ministry, production for Sunday services. What are some things you can do to help discover where you should serve?

Take a few moments to complete the Spiritual Gifts Assessment at:

[groupleaders.org/spiritualgift](https://groupleaders.org/spiritualgift)

Watch the video and fill out the assessment as you go (it will take you about 13 minutes to complete). The assessment will help you better identify where and how it's best for you to serve.

4. Based on the Spiritual Gifts Assessment, is there a specific ministry area that most interests you? What will you do to begin to serve others systematically?

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## SERVE

It's better to start serving *somewhere* than to wait a long time while you figure out where your gifts can best be used. In fact, just serving—even in a ministry area that isn't quite the right fit—can help to reveal your gifts. Still, figuring out how you are gifted can give you focus and help narrow your options.

Here are three simple steps to begin serving others:

1. **DECIDE.**  
Pray about it. Pick a place to serve or contact your church to find out where they have the most need.
2. **COMMIT.**  
Once you've decided where to serve, commit to doing it.
3. **SERVE.**  
Once you've decided and committed to serve, it's time to move. As you serve, you'll be amazed at how it changes your heart and grows your faith.

The space where someone's need and your gifts meet  
is the space for service, an opportunity, and perhaps a calling.

—Dr. Henry Cloud