



SERVE

WHY DO WE SERVE AT CROSSROADS?

We are so grateful for your interest in serving with us here at CrossRoads Church! Not only is serving a great way to build community and make CrossRoads more like home, but through serving we become more like Jesus, make God known to the world and find out how God wants to use us specifically to impact others.

This little booklet is intended to help you understand why we serve here at CrossRoads and to propel you with a few next steps on how to go involved.



WE SERVE BECAUSE:

IT MAKES GOD KNOWN

Have you ever been through the drive-through at Tim Horton's, pulled up to the window and the person working the till hands over your order and points to the car that just pulled away, saying that they paid for you? Your first thought is usually... "I should have ordered the Extra Large!" (okay maybe it's just me); but soon afterwards you are filled with gratitude and curiosity about why someone would go out of their way to show you love.

We call this a random act of kindness! But, as followers of Jesus our whole lives are meant to be filled with acts of kindness, showing others love because Jesus loves them and us. This gives us the opportunity to reveal what Jesus is like. In Matthew 5:14-16 it says:

"You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."

When we serve with the love of Jesus at CrossRoads, it makes God known and people begin to understand God's character; what He is like!

WE SERVE BECAUSE:

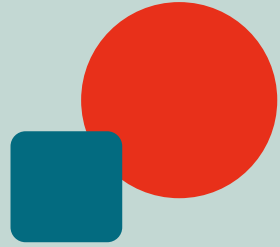
IT MAKES US MORE LIKE JESUS

The best way for us to understand how to follow Jesus is to look at the way He lived His life. When Jesus came to earth as a man, He succeeded in all the ways we have failed. He lived His life as an example of what God wants from His people. The way of Jesus is the true, right, and life-giving way.

One thing that is glaringly obvious about Jesus' life is that He used it to serve. The Bible says that although Jesus was God, He didn't use that to His advantage. Instead, He became a servant (Philippians 2:5-7). We see this over and over throughout the Bible—Jesus loved and served those around Him by healing the sick (Matthew 4:23), feeding the hungry (Matthew 14:13-21), loving the outcast (John 4:1-26), standing up for those in need (Mark 11:12-19), washing His disciples' feet (John 13:1-17), and ultimately giving up His life for the sins of the entire world (Matthew 27).

Jesus didn't just tell us to love and serve. He showed us how through His own actions. He demonstrated for us how to give life to others.

As followers of Jesus our goal is to be like Him through the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives. For us then, serving is not just about a task or duty. Serving becomes part of our identity as followers of Jesus.



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In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.

Philippians 2:5-7

YOU HAVE BEEN GIVEN A GIFT

No, we are not talking about the type of gift you take to a birthday party! When you started following Jesus, he gave you a unique ability to share with the world. These gifts are used to build others up and help them flourish in life and faith.

The way we discover our unique ability, or what is called in the Bible 'Spiritual Gifts', is to begin serving others. As you serve, you begin to recognize the unique ways that Jesus has gifted you to build up the church and help Central Alberta flourish.





Every follower of Jesus is gifted differently, which means we need one another. One of us might have the gift of administration, while another the gift of hospitality. The picture the Bible gives to help us understand Spiritual Gifts is the idea of the human body. In the book of 1 Corinthians chapter 12, we are told that each of us represents a part of the body. You might be an eye while I am a foot, and we need each other with our unique gifts to fulfill the mission to build up the church and care for Central Alberta.

We are kind of like the Mr. Potato-Head that you played with when you were a kid. When we decide to use our gifts, we become a living part of the Body. Through that, we become more effective in caring for one another and reaching people with the love of Christ.

So, what is your gift? How has God wired you? What are your talents, interests, and passions? God has gifted you so that you can honour Him and serve others.

NEXT STEPS



-  Fill out the serve form on the website: crossroadschurch.ca/serve
-  There are many different places to serve at CrossRoads and in our community but sometimes we need someone to listen to our story and help us discern what the best place to serve will be. If you would like a conversation with one of our team members to discern the best place for you, email us at serve@crossroadschurch.ca.
-  To learn more about your gifts take a look at "Gifted for Love" by Matt Chandler on RightNow Media.
-  Attend an **Engage** session at CrossRoads. The purpose of Engage is to take a closer look at being a member of the CrossRoads community: our beliefs, priorities, and ministry opportunities. You can connect with Julie at julien@crossroadschurch.ca to receive information on the next ENGAGE session date.



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