



These Digging Deeper questions can be used the week following the Sunday message. You can use these questions for personal growth and development, or as a guide for your family or Connect Group discussions.

Message Recap:

Read Romans 2: 1-11

Why is serving so important? As humans it's natural for us to want to know what we get out of the things that we pour our time and effort into. Luckily, God does not say that we will not be rewarded for our service, though it will generally not be the kind of earthly rewards that we're used to. God offers us eternal life in him, but only if we're obedient with our time on Earth. A large part of this obedience is serving others. God has prepared so much for those who follow his commands. So remember, serving not for yourself, or so that others will praise your name, but so your Father in heaven will smile, and bless you beyond measure.

Pray

Lord, we struggle with giving up time in our busy lives to serve. And sometimes we struggle with our serving going unrecognized by those around us. Help us to not lose sight of the only One who really matters – you. We don't want to serve so that *our* name be praised, but yours. Give us strength to serve as you have called us to, and give us humility to do it with a heart that longs only for your attention.

Getting Started

- Have you ever gone out of your way to do something for someone, and it went completely unrecognized or unappreciated?
- Why do you think that we try so hard to earn the recognition of those around us?

Digging Deeper

1. Read Romans 2:6. What does this verse mean? If you died today, what do you think your reward would look like?
2. What do you think God's eternal rewards will be? If those are the only rewards you ever get, will it be enough for you? What are some practical ways to let go of the need for human or immediate praise for what we do?
3. Have you recently seen a need that you could help fill, and yet walked away? What was it? How did it make you feel?
4. Conversely, have you recently jumped in to fill a need? Compare that feeling to how it feels when you ignore a need.
5. What is the biggest challenge that you face when it comes to following God's call to serve? How can you, or how have you, overcome this challenge?
6. Read Matthew 20:26. Discuss what this verse looks like in our day and as part of the Be The Difference Challenge. Share practical examples of how we can live out this verse.
7. Have you signed up for the 'Be the Difference' challenge yet? How many steps have you completed?
8. What is changing in your life because of this focus on serving? Do you plan to continue serving in the new year? Why or why not?

Living Jesus

Jesus came to Earth, not to be served, but to serve. If the creator of the universe felt compelled to serve, then why don't we? Don't let the distractions of life force you to ignore God's call to serve. It won't always be easy, but God promises a reward. James 1:12 says, "Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him."

Your Story

Have you seen or experienced the joys of service over the past few months? **Share your personal story with us here:** <https://severnrun.ccbchurch.com/goto/forms/124/responses/new>.