

Day One Devotional

“Called To Serve”

**Read Galatians 5:13**

“You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love.”

We have many brave men & women who fight hard for our country and the freedoms we have in this country. These soldiers give up their lives, family, friends and so much more for us to have the right to worship our God freely. They serve our country with pride, bravery & heart.

With this freedom comes a choice. Just like God let's us have the freedom to choose between right and wrong or to follow or not follow Him. We are born into a sinful nature that our earthly bodies like to do the wrong things. Have you ever had a choice that you had to make in your life between right & wrong? Which did you choose?

In this verse, we are called to serve one another in love. What exactly does this mean? Many people have the misconception that being “called” by God is something only missionaries, pastors, nuns, and other church leaders experience. But the Bible says everyone is called to serve God by serving others.

There are 3 things to consider when serving others. One is you cannot serve God until you've been set free by Jesus. It's the requirement for serving. How can you serve God if you don't know God as your Lord & Savior? You can still help people but it is not for the right reasons.

Second, we have a selfish sinful nature as the scripture says that we choose to do our own things for ourselves. Do you feel like you don't have time to serve others? The #1 reason we don't have the time or energy to serve others is that we're preoccupied with our own agendas, dreams, and pleasures. It is okay to follow our dreams and do things we like but if we love God and want to follow Him we need to obey His Word.

Third, the motive for serving is love. Paul says, “Serve one another in love.” How exactly do we do this? God is far more interested in why you serve others than in how well you serve them. He's always looking at your heart, serving willingly and eagerly out of love for Jesus and gratitude for all he's done for you.

So, how can you serve? Who will you help out this week? Will it be by helping your friend out in an activity this week? Or will it be by listening to your leaders and teachers? Ask God what you can do for Him this week that will honor Him.

## Day Two Devotional

### "Who Will You Serve"

#### **Read Matthew 6:24**

"No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money."

Like we discussed yesterday, we all have a choice to make. Today we are going to talk about how we can choose to follow God or not follow Him. This verse asks us to choose a leader and pick only one to listen to. If we try to serve both, we will fail and not be happy. We can substitute the word money for many things like games, toys, school, sports or other things that take a lot of your time away from God.

Think about what you do with most of your day. How much of your time is spent on things that don't have God in it? Do you have a lot? It is okay if you do. At your age, a lot of time is spent with friends hanging out, playing video games & watching movies and we forget to include God in our daily lives. We talk about God on Sundays & Wednesdays and a lot at church camp, but what do we do with our time the rest of our weeks?

We can serve God by giving up some of our time each day to have a stronger relationship with him. Wouldn't you like to hear from God everyday? Do you hear from Him a lot or not at all? As we grow up in our spiritual walk and faith in God we need to spend more time with Him. We can do this by praying and talking to Him. We can also read our bibles and see what all He has done for us. When we do this, God teaches us and guides us in our everyday lives and we are truly happy.

So today let's choose whom we are going to follow and stick to it. Like the verse says we can't serve 2 masters or we will be miserable. Let's choose today to follow God and see all the great things He has in store for us. It all starts with a choice that only you can make.