

Coaching Tips:

TIP #8 THE ART OF SERVING TOGETHER

For we know, brothers loved by God, that he has chosen you, because our gospel came to you not only in word, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction. You know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake. And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you received the word in much affliction,



with the joy of the Holy Spirit, so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. For not only has the word of the Lord sounded forth from you in Macedonia and Achaia, but your faith in God has gone forth everywhere, so that we need not say anything.

1 Thessalonians 1:4-8

"Inviting others to serve with you is a loving and welcoming act."

We left off in our journey through the 9 Arts of Spiritual Conversations at welcoming. By our welcoming, we help bridge people - from being a vulnerable outsider to someone that is connected in relationship. Welcoming also requires practice and intentionality.

As we welcome, one way that we can really draw people in is through serving with spiritual seekers, with non-believers. Through serving together, we can help others experience God's love and truth in action, thereby deepening relationships with them and also opening up opportunities to share and talk about life and God.

The reason why we do it this way is because that's what God did. God communicated to us through the incarnation of Jesus Christ. God in the flesh, dwelt among us, communicating God Himself in everything He did.



Inviting others to serve with you is a loving and welcoming act. Through serving together, you are valuing their contributions as an equal and active part of the group. You are helping others to feel included, connected, and it provides an opportunity for you to affirm their God-given abilities. Through serving together, they can experience life with you and that deepens your relationship with them.

Why don't we do this? It's hard to do this because it means giving up my individualism, materialism, and consumerism. We cherish our comfort, security, and convenience. However, the gospel helps us to redefine our lives because Christ calls us together, Christ has given us His everything, and we have everything in Christ, who sacrificed for us and we are called to do the same.

So, what would it look like for us to serve together? First, where are the genuine needs around you? How can you empower the people you serve? Then, you partner with them to give them ownership of it. Then, make it sustainable and not just a one-time effort. Finally preserve (or build) dignity. We can maximize our serving together by also preparing in advance, continuing to pray, to continue to have a spiritual awareness of what God is doing, serve the best that we can and by debriefing afterwards.

PRACTICE: DEVELOPING HEALTHY SPIRITUAL RHYTHMS

1. Have you ever done a service project with non-believers? If not, what barriers or fears might hold you back?
2. In the next week, identify a need in your community or workplace. Plan out a simple activity that you can invite others to serve in together.