

## The Motivations for Serving

### Isaiah 58

Pastor Dave Bennett

#### Introduction: Reasons for volunteering

**We believe that we have been sent into the world as Jesus was sent, not to be served, but to serve.** This service is an expression of God's love in action. We believe that we are called to express God's special concern for the poor, the needy, the alien, and the oppressed. We have a particular responsibility to those in distress in our own towns and communities, as well as to fellow Christians in need.

#### I. Service as Responsible Stewardship

- A. Caring for creation  
(Genesis 1:28; 2:15, Psalm 24:1)
- B. Nurturing our families  
(Psalm 128:3; Ephesians 5:25; Mark 10:45)
- C. Building solid communities  
(Jeremiah 29:7)

#### II. Service as an Expression of God's Heart

(Isaiah 58:1-14)

- A. His heart of compassion
- B. His heart for justice

#### III. Service as Participation in the Mission of Jesus

(Phillippians 2:3-8; Luke 22:27; John 20:21, John 13:1-17)

## Daily Bible Readings

February 2—8

### FOLLOW-THROUGHS

Monday

#### Psalm 104

As you read this psalm celebrating the beauty and wonder of the world God has created, take some time to look out the window, or to walk around outdoors, giving thanks to the Lord for giving us the privilege of taking care of his creation. Is there anything you could do as a more responsible steward of God's creation?

Tuesday

#### Ephesians 5:15 – 6:4

God has placed us in relationships with people who are precious to him, including our own families. What different roles do you play within your immediate and extended families? How is God calling you to serve a family member today?

Wednesday

#### Jeremiah 29:4-14

What instructions did God give to the Jewish people who were in exile in Babylon? What promises did he make to them? What are some ways that you, as a good citizen, could seek the peace and prosperity of the town where you live?

Thursday

#### Leviticus 19:1-18,32-37

In what ways are these different commands expressions of love for God, or love for other people? What would be some present day applications? Is there any area of your own life that you need to re-examine, or sin that you need to confess?

Friday

#### Exodus 23:1-8

What sort of basic values are implied in these commands? What aspects of daily life are important to God? What would be some present day applications? Which application do you need to focus on today?

### WARM-UPS

Saturday

#### Isaiah 42:1-7; 49:5-7

What will be some of the central priorities of the Servant of the Lord? What does this tell us about the heart of God?

Sunday

#### Isaiah 50:4-9; 52:13 – 53:12

What sort of suffering will the Servant of the Lord have to endure? In what ways did Jesus fulfill these prophecies? In what ways does service involve suffering?