

# KEEPING OUR BALANCE

*Service*

## INTRODUCTION

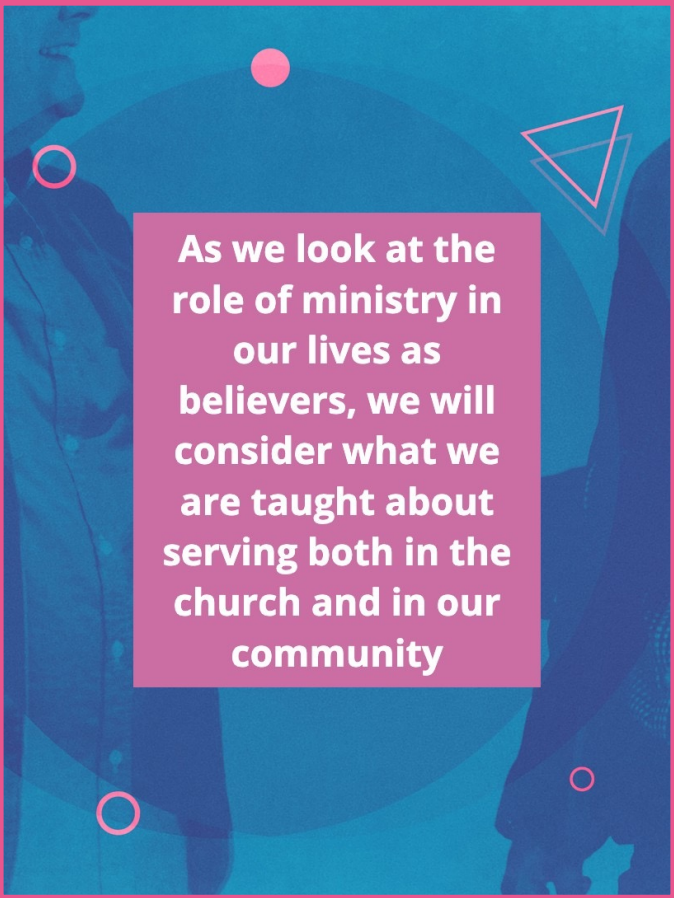
### AIM:

To remind ourselves that we are 'created in Christ Jesus to do good works' so that the 'body of Christ may be built up'; to see believers as 'salt and light' in our community.

### OPENER

What is your experience of serving others – either in church or in the community – over the years that you have been a believer?

What does the word 'serving' make you think?



As we look at the role of ministry in our lives as believers, we will consider what we are taught about serving both in the church and in our community

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## BIBLE STUDY



### IN THE CHURCH

#### Read: 1 Corinthians 12 : 14-20

These well-known verses are often used to show that each person who is part of a church has a significant part to play in that church. Yet we still fall for the idea that some ministries (*vicar, worship leader, missionary*) are more important than others.

- What can these verses teach or remind us today when it comes to the idea of some ministries being more important than others?
- Do you think we have a specific role that is right for us in the church (in line with our gifts and personality) or do you think that everyone should 'take a turn' at some less desirable roles – like putting the chairs out or washing up?



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## BIBLE STUDY



### IN THE CHURCH

#### Read: Ephesians 4 : 11-13, 16

Some verses from **Ephesians 4** that teach us what lies behind our service as a member of Christ's body.

- **Look at verses 11 -13.** Here we are told that our service for others in church is used to build others up and to unify.
  - Why is it so important to have a church that is built up and unified through everyone taking part? What does it lead to?
- **Look at verse 16.**
  - What is the role of the 'ligaments' in this verse? What do you think the ligaments might be in our church?
  - Picturing the church as the body of Christ, what do we learn about our roles at church from our verse of the year?

*"From him  
the whole body,  
joined and held together  
by every supporting ligament,  
grows and builds itself up in love,  
as each part does its work."*

EPHESIANS 4 : 16

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## BIBLE STUDY



### IN OUR COMMUNITY

#### Read: Matthew 5 : 13-16

(If possible, read them in The Message for a very practical version)

- If we are salt, how might we lose our saltiness when we step out into the community? (v 13)
- What are some of the ways that you feel called to be **salt and light** in your community?
- Thinking about this passage, what do you think is our calling as believers when it comes to being part of our local community?
- Looking at both parts of this study on service, what do you think is the relationship between our **service in the church** and our **service in the community**? Do you think one is more important or valued by God than the other?



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## GOING DEEPER

### Look at Ephesians 2 : 8-10

These verses teach us fundamental truths about our faith when it comes to 'good works'.

- Why is it so important to understand that rushing about busily in the name of Christianity does not bring about our salvation? What is the **temptation (v9)** that can result from our 'works'?
- **Verse 10** tells us that we were created to '**do good works**'. If we have been saved by grace, why do you think God wants us to '**do good works**'?

It might help to know that the word 'workmanship' in verse 10 (NIV) is also translated as 'poetry', 'handiwork', or 'masterpiece' in other versions of the Bible!



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**PRAY**

As you consider your role at Emmanuel and your role in the community, how might these passages speak to you?

Ask God to once again give you insight into how you should be spending your time, remembering that God does not want us to burn out!

Talk with your group about areas where you may be struggling as you try to discern how to spend your valuable time.

