



## FLOURISH COMMUNITIES

### Sacrificial Service

**Spiritual formation exercises provide meaningful ways for you to abide in God and be transformed by Him.**

“At the end of life, we will not be judged by how many diplomas we have received, how much money we have made, how many great things we have done. We will be judged by “I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat, I was naked and you clothed me. I was homeless, and you took me in.” — Mother Teresa

“You have not lived today until you have done something for someone who can never repay you.” — John Bunyan

**How can you arrange your life in order to develop this spiritual practice into a regular rhythm?**

### Sacrificial Service

“When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them because they were confused and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. He said to his disciples, “The harvest is great, but the workers are few. So, pray to the Lord who is in charge of the harvest; ask him to send more workers into his fields.”

Matthew 9:36-38

“There are few better ways to reflect the heart of God for people than through sacrificial service. Followers of Jesus who engage in sacrificial service to others build significantly more credibility with people of all belief systems than those who do not regularly serve others. It’s as if all people inherently recognize the goodness of God reflected by serving others with nothing expected in return. Sacrificial service means doing good works even when it’s costly, inconvenient or challenging.”<sup>1</sup>

### Try It

1. Start by blessing someone today with your words. Then follow with a simple act of kindness.
2. Drive around your neighborhood and the places you frequent. Pray for the business owners, school teachers, healthcare workers, homeless and helpless. Ask God to soften your heart for the people in your community. Think of one practical thing you can do to serve one person in your neighborhood/places you frequent, and then do it.
3. Make a list of all the helping organizations in your city that interest you. Which organization currently resonates with you; which organization is being “good news” and meeting real needs of people you care about in practical ways? Choose one and volunteer there.
4. Every morning for one week ask a friend, colleague, spouse or family member, “What can I do for you today?” Then do it. Talk to God about what this is like for you. What do you see about yourself?”<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Try It Ideas adapted from “The Dimensions of Discipleship”, by Dr. Robert Logan.

<sup>2</sup> adapted from “Spiritual Disciplines Handbook: Practices That Transforms Us”, by Adele Ahlberg Calhoun