

WHAT DOES MINISTRY LOOK LIKE? THE SIMPLEST EXPLANATION IS “BEING THE HANDS AND FEET OF GOD”

YOU DON'T HAVE TO TRAVEL THE WORLD, OR PASTOR A CHURCH, OR BECOME A FULL TIME MISSIONARY. HERE ARE SOME SIMPLE EXAMPLES OF WHAT YOU MAY ALREADY BE DOING. CAN YOU INCREASE THEM? CAN YOU ADD OTHERS IN YOUR GIFTINGS? WHAT GOD GIVEN DESIRES JUMP OUT WHEN YOU READ THESE?

THE BIBLE OFFERS NUMEROUS EXAMPLES OF HOW INDIVIDUALS CAN ACT AS GOD'S HANDS AND FEET BY SERVING OTHERS AND SPREADING HIS LOVE. THIS IS NOT EXHAUSTIVE. HERE ARE 30 EXAMPLES:

1. FEEDING THE HUNGRY: JESUS FEEDING THE MULTITUDE WITH FIVE LOAVES AND TWO FISH (MATTHEW 14:13-21).
2. CLOTHING THE NAKED: PROVIDING CLOTHING FOR THOSE IN NEED (MATTHEW 25:36).
3. SHELTERING THE HOMELESS: OFFERING HOSPITALITY TO STRANGERS (HEBREWS 13:2).
4. HEALING THE SICK: JESUS' MINISTRY OF HEALING THE SICK AND INFIRM (MATTHEW 4:23-24).
5. VISITING THE IMPRISONED: MINISTERING TO THOSE IN PRISON (MATTHEW 25:36).
6. CARING FOR WIDOWS AND ORPHANS: JAMES EMPHASIZES PURE RELIGION AS CARING FOR WIDOWS AND ORPHANS IN THEIR DISTRESS (JAMES 1:27).
7. COMFORTING THE AFFLICTED: PAUL ENCOURAGES BELIEVERS TO COMFORT THOSE WHO ARE GOING THROUGH TRIALS (2 CORINTHIANS 1:3-4).
8. FORGIVING OTHERS: FOLLOWING JESUS' EXAMPLE OF FORGIVENESS (EPHESIANS 4:32).
9. ENCOURAGING THE DISCOURAGED: PAUL ENCOURAGES BELIEVERS TO BUILD ONE ANOTHER UP (1 THESSALONIANS 5:11).
10. PRAYING FOR OTHERS: INTERCEDING FOR OTHERS IN PRAYER (JAMES 5:16).
11. TEACHING AND SHARING GOD'S WORD: SPREADING THE GOSPEL AND TEACHING OTHERS ABOUT GOD'S LOVE (MATTHEW 28:19-20).
12. SHOWING KINDNESS TO STRANGERS: THE PARABLE OF THE GOOD SAMARITAN DEMONSTRATES SHOWING KINDNESS TO STRANGERS (LUKE 10:25-37).

13. STANDING UP FOR JUSTICE: PROVERBS EMPHASIZES SPEAKING UP FOR THOSE WHO CANNOT SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES (PROVERBS 31:8-9).
14. OFFERING A CUP OF WATER: JESUS COMMENDS EVEN A SIMPLE ACT LIKE OFFERING A CUP OF WATER IN HIS NAME (MARK 9:41).
15. BEING A PEACEMAKER: JESUS TEACHES THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING PEACEMAKERS (MATTHEW 5:9).
16. SHARING RESOURCES WITH THE NEEDY: THE EARLY CHURCH SHARED THEIR POSSESSIONS TO MEET THE NEEDS OF OTHERS (ACTS 2:44-45).
17. LOVING ENEMIES: JESUS INSTRUCTS HIS FOLLOWERS TO LOVE THEIR ENEMIES AND PRAY FOR THOSE WHO PERSECUTE THEM (MATTHEW 5:44).
18. STANDING UP FOR THE OPPRESSED: PROVERBS TEACHES SPEAKING UP FOR THOSE OPPRESSED AND ENSURING JUSTICE (PROVERBS 31:8-9).
19. SHOWING HUMILITY AND SERVANTHOOD: JESUS WASHED HIS DISCIPLES' FEET AS AN EXAMPLE OF HUMILITY AND SERVANTHOOD (JOHN 13:1-17).
20. BEING A LIGHT IN THE WORLD: JESUS TEACHES BELIEVERS TO LET THEIR LIGHT SHINE BEFORE OTHERS SO THEY MAY SEE THEIR GOOD DEEDS AND GLORIFY GOD (MATTHEW 5:16).
21. SHARING JOY AND CELEBRATING WITH OTHERS: REJOICING WITH THOSE WHO REJOICE AND MOURNING WITH THOSE WHO MOURN (ROMANS 12:15).
22. OFFERING HOSPITALITY: WELCOMING OTHERS INTO YOUR HOME AND SHOWING KINDNESS TO STRANGERS (1 PETER 4:9).
23. SUPPORTING MISSIONARIES AND EVANGELISTS: PROVIDING SUPPORT, BOTH FINANCIALLY AND THROUGH PRAYER, FOR THOSE SPREADING THE GOSPEL (PHILIPPIANS 4:15-16).
24. EMPOWERING THE VULNERABLE: ADVOCATING FOR THE RIGHTS AND DIGNITY OF MARGINALIZED GROUPS, SUCH AS WOMEN, CHILDREN, AND REFUGEES (PSALM 82:3-4).
25. BEING PATIENT AND KIND: PRACTICING PATIENCE, KINDNESS, AND GENTLENESS IN INTERACTIONS WITH OTHERS (GALATIANS 5:22-23).
26. FOSTERING UNITY AND RECONCILIATION: WORKING TOWARDS UNITY AND RECONCILIATION WITHIN COMMUNITIES AND RELATIONSHIPS (EPHESIANS 4:3).

27. OFFERING COUNSEL AND GUIDANCE: PROVIDING WISE COUNSEL AND GUIDANCE TO THOSE IN NEED (PROVERBS 12:15).

28. SUPPORTING THE LOCAL CHURCH: SERVING WITHIN THE LOCAL CHURCH COMMUNITY THROUGH VOLUNTEERING, MENTORING, OR LEADERSHIP ROLES (1 CORINTHIANS 12:27).

29. PROMOTING HOLINESS AND ACCOUNTABILITY: ENCOURAGING OTHERS IN THEIR WALK OF FAITH AND HOLDING EACH OTHER ACCOUNTABLE IN LOVE (HEBREWS 10:24-25).

30. LOVING WITH ACTIONS AND IN TRUTH: PRACTICING LOVE NOT ONLY IN WORDS BUT ALSO IN ACTIONS AND TRUTH (1 JOHN 3:18).

THESE EXAMPLES ILLUSTRATE THE WAYS IN WHICH INDIVIDUALS CAN REFLECT GOD'S LOVE AND CHARACTER IN THEIR DAILY LIVES, SERVING AS HIS HANDS AND FEET TO THOSE AROUND THEM.