

MADE FOR SOMETHING MORE

I Am a Minister

2 Corinthians 3:4-12

THE POINT:
*God works
through us to
make a difference.***THE BIBLE MEETS LIFE**

While we can be thankful for the work of our pastors and church leaders, ministry is not just for a select few. Some people are set apart for specific offices and ministries within the church, but we are all given the privilege of doing the work of a minister. The call to follow Christ is a call to serve Him, and we serve Him through the opportunities He gives us to serve others.

► **What's a chore you'd love to pass on to someone else?**

INTRO

As students, we are called to fulfill certain responsibilities—be present at school, stay awake, and do our own work. Sure, there are things in life we don't necessarily love doing, but they are a part of living responsibly. It's the same in the Christian life. Certain responsibilities may not be the most enjoyable, or they may not come naturally, and we're inclined to neglect those. One of these may be ministry—after all, it's hard work, so shouldn't we just let the "ministers" handle that? The truth is that God has called every believer to be a minister, and He chooses to work uniquely through each of us to impact the people in our lives.

2 CORINTHIANS 3:4-6

We've all felt the fear associated with feeling inferior or unprepared. And when it comes to matters of faith, we often feel particularly unqualified. Paul tells us that we never have to lack confidence in our walk with Christ because, in Him, we have everything we need to be effective ministers of the gospel. When we step out of our comfort zones to serve the Lord, we may say to ourselves, "What are you thinking? You surely don't have what it takes." But Paul teaches that our competence does not come from ourselves, and our sense of self-confidence doesn't arise from our own ability. Believers have the Spirit living inside us; our adequacy is from God. God has given us Himself, and we have more than enough to do what God calls us to do.

► **What do these verses teach us about our role in God's work?**

2 CORINTHIANS 3:7-10

Moses had been in God's presence when he received the law, and as a result, God's glory was reflected all over his face. But the glory associated with the law pales in comparison to the glory of Jesus:

- **The Law:** the law is certainly a good thing, because by obeying we are brought into right standing with God. But there's a problem—no one fully obeys the law, and because of our failure to obey, we are under a curse.
- **Jesus:** Jesus fully obeyed the law and His righteousness is applied to those with faith in Him.

Paul didn't dismiss the glory of the law. However, it paled in comparison to the glory of Jesus. The glory of the law was fading, but the glory of Jesus is everlasting and is far greater!

► **How do we make sure that God gets the glory for our ministry?**

2 CORINTHIANS 3:11-12

The purpose of God's people from the beginning was to be a "light to the nations" (Isa. 42:6). This means the Israelites were to be a picture of God's glory not only to those within the family of God, but to all people. Our purpose today is the same:

- We are to love our church family as an expression of God's love.
- We are to share the gospel with the lost that they would see God's goodness.

It can be intimidating to share the gospel with others in the community or at school. After all, people will reject us. They will ask questions for which we don't know the answers, but God has called us to share of His glory and He has equipped us with everything we need. Jesus is our only hope, and we can share with boldness. We are called to be ministers, and we don't minister in vain. Jesus is worth sharing.

► **What does it look like to serve Christ with boldness in today's culture?**



LIVE IT OUT

▶ CHRIST

We're called to do ministry as an extension of Jesus' ministry to people. After all, we'd be in no place to serve anyone had Jesus not first served us.

In what ways has Jesus ministered to you?

How will you worship Him for these?

Empty response box for the question: "In what ways has Jesus ministered to you?"

Empty response box for the question: "How will you worship Him for these?"

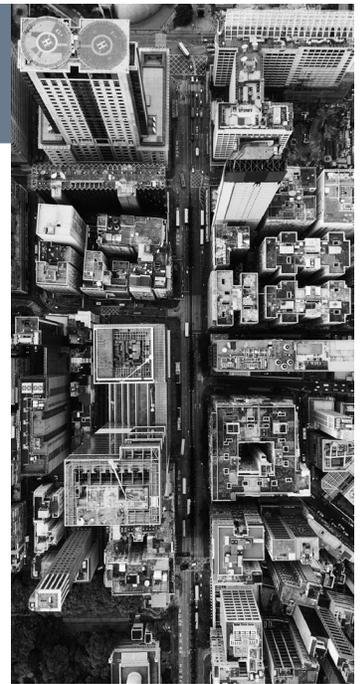
▶ COMMUNITY

A major mark of healthy community is "fellowship." Fellowship isn't simply eating a meal together or watching a ballgame. Rather, it includes the idea of coming together for a common purpose or mission, and as we serve together, strong bonds grow that are essential in the church.

▶ **Discuss one way you can come together this week as a group (or even with one or two others in the group) in order to minister to others and to build healthy fellowship.**

▶ CULTURE

People who aren't a part of God's family are characterized not by sacrificial, others-oriented service, but by self-service. List three ways you can reflect Jesus' ultimate sacrifice to lost people this week as you serve others.



BIBLE READING PLAN

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DAY 1
2 CORINTHIANS 1

DAY 2
2 CORINTHIANS 2

DAY 3
2 CORINTHIANS 3

DAY 4
2 CORINTHIANS 4

DAY 5
2 CORINTHIANS 5

DAY 6
2 CORINTHIANS 6

DAY 7
2 CORINTHIANS 7