

# SERVING | WEEK 3

## Needs and opportunities

Often, the best place to discern our gifts is by stepping out and serving. Through this, you will better discern what you enjoy and where you thrive, what others in the Church affirm, and where God brings fruit. Paul doesn't tell us to sit around trying to figure out our gifts. Rather, he tells us to use them (Rom. 12:6). So a good place to begin is to simply look at the needs and opportunities around you and then step into them.

**Step 1**—What Opportunities Am I Aware Of? What are current needs in the church that I know about? What are opportunities for me to serve in and/or doors God has opened? Who are people God has brought into my life that I can serve or reach out to?

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**Step 2**—What Needs Exist in My Church? The local church is an interdependent body that needs everyone to use their gift for the sake of the whole body. There are many needs within each church, even when it appears like things are going smoothly or you don't feel needed.

Here are some ways to explore the needs:

Go to College Park's "Serving Hub" to learn many of the ways you can serve in the Church. [yourchurch.com/care-outreach/local-outreach/serving-hub/](http://yourchurch.com/care-outreach/local-outreach/serving-hub/). Flip through the College Park website to see the different ministry areas (all of them have opportunities to serve).

Talk to people this Sunday morning whom you see serving; ask what they enjoy about that ministry area and if there are more needs. Note the areas below that interest you.

- Nursery (care giving Sunday/weekdays, teach, clean)
- Children (teaching, snacks, check-in, Awana)
- Community Life (Small Group leading)
- Compassion (meals, respite care, home visits)

- Disability Ministry (special needs, transportation)
- Global Outreach (pray, Vision Trip leadership, host students)
- Local Outreach (volunteer with local partners, evangelism)
- Soul Care/Counseling & Prayer
- First Hand Ministry (greeters, ushers, welcome desk, guest reception)
- Room Set-up, Traffic & Medical Team on Sunday
- Worship Services, Choir, Worship Arts
- Communications (design, writing, photography)
- TechServe (audio, video, lighting, camera operator)
- Office Help & Administration
- Counting Team (Sunday offerings)
- Information Technology (network & data needs)
- Church Grounds & Building Maintenance (landscaping, snow removal, trash pick-up)
- Student Ministry (small groups)