



WITNESS Sermon Study Guide

Week 7: Serving Lance Blythe

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Serving one another is a key part of our witness and discipleship. This week we explore the theme of true service that goes beyond random acts of kindness and speaks to the heart of what it means to be a family.

A family at its best is defined by radical service and the pursuit of caring for one another—not because you are *meant* to, but because you *long* to as an expression of love. Think of a parent who sacrifices hours of quality sleep to care for their young child through the night. Or a grown child who welcomes an aging parent into their home to protect and care for them in a vulnerable season of life.

A family who serves each other—not out of duty but out of love—is a powerful picture of what we are called to be as we bear witness to Christ.

1. In what ways are you currently serving others?
2. Are these acts motivated by love, or do they sometimes feel like obligations?

Read 1 Thessalonians 2:1-13

Here Paul writes to the church in Thessalonica and reflects on his time of ministry with Silas and Timothy. They came to witness and preach the gospel, not for personal gain, affirmation, or praise, but out of genuine love and humble service. As they did, something profound happened: the people they served became family.

Paul uses intimate metaphors to describe living among the Thessalonians as brothers and sisters, parents and children. It is not the biology of blood that dictates family, but the nature of love.

“Because we loved you so much, we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well.” 2:8

1. Who in your life feels like family, even if you’re not related by blood?



2. How do you build relationships based on genuine love and service rather than approval or personal gain?

Preach the gospel at all times and use words if necessary.

You've probably heard this saying before. This is a well-known quote often attributed to Saint Francis of Assisi, and while this phrase captures the importance of living out faith through actions, we should caution against taking it too far. Paul, after all, was never afraid to use words. The two should go together.

Let's use tap water as an analogy. The life-giving water that nourishes us doesn't arrive at our taps by itself—it travels through a network of pipes. Without the pipe, the water spreads aimlessly and is harder to access. Without the water, the pipe is just an empty conduit. In the same way, service without God's word is hollow, and the word without service lacks a channel to flow through. But together they form a partnership that enables our witness.

1. Have you ever experienced someone's faith through their actions before their words? How did it impact you?
2. Does understanding acts of service as a conduit for sharing the word of God change the way you might approach serving others?

Read Ephesians 1:5-6 and Romans 8:14-17

God has ordained His Kingdom to advance through our deep yearning for family—for love, intimacy, and caring relationships. This is the conduit through which the word of God finds nourishment to grow. But, creating family-like relationships isn't always easy.

Family—whether biological or spiritual—is never a perfect, linear journey. There are ups and downs. Some weeks, we feel like we're doing well in our relationships; other weeks, we feel distant or disconnected. The key is to keep showing up, to continue seeking love and service for our “horizontal” family, even as we remember our identity and place in the “vertical” family.

Before anything else, Christians are children of God, adopted into his family. Ephesians 1 says believers are sons and daughters of God—not because they earned it, but because they were invited. Romans 8 goes even further, describing believers as co-heirs with Christ, fully embraced into God's inheritance.



This identity should encourage and empower us; and shape our approach to relationships. When we recognise that we have been adopted into God's family, we can extend that same love to others, even if they haven't "earned" it.

1. Reflect on your identity as an adopted son or daughter in God's family. How does this understanding empower you to live out your faith with confidence and love?
2. What changes might you make in your daily life to align more closely with this identity?

Who is your family? And who is becoming your family?

Each of us have people we naturally gravitate towards. People we love and care for. You may like to take some time to thank God and pray a blessing over these people now.

As witnesses to the love of Jesus, we are called to go a step further. Take some time to consider who might need to experience the best of what God designed a family to be—a place of love, security, and service. Who can you welcome in? Maybe it's one of the names you wrote down to pray for over our 21 days of focussed prayer. Keep on praying and ask the Holy Spirit to foster the kind of deep connections where faith can be shared and nurtured.

1. Reflect on your current relationships. Who in your life is becoming family to you, and how can you nurture these relationships through acts of love and service?

If you have experienced pain or brokenness in your family relationships, I would encourage you to bring these wounds before God who loves you. Seek healing through prayer or by reaching out for support.