

## Worksheet: More Impactful Everyday Serving

This worksheet accompanies the article "[How to Serve More Impactfully](#)"

Growing the impact of our serving recognizes that:

- relationships have more long-term impact than the receipt of material items like food and clothing
- Helping people grow out of long-term materials poverty requires different kind of serving than helping people through an immediate crisis
- High-impact serving is more challenging and time consuming than low-impact serving
- There's nothing wrong with low-impact serving when it's appropriate
- Measuring impact is imprecise. Serving in high impact ways might mean never seeing your own impact

The questions and suggestions below help us each consider the impact of the serving we chose.

Begin with recognizing that if you live with a spouse, your children, your parents or sibling, this is a place of high-impact serving. Recognizing this as your primary serving elevates it to its rightful place. It's more than simply routine and chores. List here any family who are the ones you are first in your serving.

List other places you serve, including perhaps extended family members that you help with some regularity. Include your employment or your school and any church or community organizations you serve. Include places you've served within the past year on a one-time basis (such as the school festival; community food drive; etc).



On your list,

- Put an upper-case R by those where you had or have opportunities to build relationships with those you are serving.
- Put a lower-case r by those where you had or have opportunities to build relationships with those who are serving with you (e.g., the church choir). (This is serving, too!)

Look at your list and consider:

- Overall, is your serving more relational or more superficial? Does the current balance seem appropriate? comfortable?
- Combined with the serving you do in your household, how 'heavy' is your relational serving; what does it 'cost' you in time and energy and attitude? How well or poorly are you handling the relational cost?
- For each R item, add a + if you are receiving support from a person or an organization for that area of serving. Support can be someone you go to, someone who checks in with you regularly, etc.

Look at the big picture.

- Are you comfortable with where and who you are serving? If so, do you have room to add some higher-impact serving?
- If you are burdened by the amount of relational serving already on your plate, know that relational serving beyond your capacity actually reduces your impact. What might relieve some of the burden? What can you do to get more support?

Donating money to individuals and organizations can be considered another way we serve. List organizations that you give to regularly or have given to recently. Considering the impact of our financial gifts is wise.

- Which are helping people in short term emergencies and which are helping people move out of long-term material poverty?
- How familiar are you with how they spend your donation?
- Is the work of those receiving your money relational or superficial?

What is your one next step as you consider the impact of your serving? Tell your next step to someone who can encourage you and help hold you accountable.

