

DISTRACTED

CAPTURE YOUR PURPOSE - REDISCOVER YOUR JOY!

UNDISTRACTED IN OUR SERVICE

<REFLECT > REFOCUS > RECHARGE>

<REFLECT>

When we think of ways we serve others - we might think of the big ways we meet a need or help others, but the apostle Paul - service and encouragement naturally go together.

Read 1 Thessalonians 5:9-18

- > How does your ability to encourage reflect your relationship with God?
- > What does it mean to hold others in the highest regard in love because of their work? (verse 13)
- > When you think of all the people you encounter on a daily basis - what is one practical way you can encourage them in your next interaction?

<REFOCUS>

How would your life be different if you looked at disappointing outcomes as enticing opportunities? A personal relationship with God means we are assured of His affirmation and validation - so we can pivot whenever we like. Those who live with purpose and joy stop trying to control outcomes and see life as small hops from one safe lily pad to the next. Rather they see their lives consisting of many great leaps of faith in the hands of God who is with us.

Read Hebrews 11

- > How does being available to serve others require you to put faith into action?
 - > What do you feel you put at risk when you step out to serve others?
- > Which of the list of people of faith in Hebrews 11 do you most resonate with right now?
- > When has God surprised you by using your service to impact others beyond your expectations?

<RECHARGE>

Jesus said that oneness with God means oneness with each other. Our vertical relationship with God impacts the horizontal relationship we have with others. Recorded in 1 John 4:20 - "Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother or sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen."

If we say we love God but not the people He made including the ones just as fallible as we pretend not to be - then we have a heart condition that we need to address.

Who makes you uncomfortable right now? Why do they make you feel uncomfortable ... "I don't know" isn't an answer either!

Take some time to think honestly about what they do that makes you uncomfortable and do a little research! The research is to find out what you have in common. Talk to them and pray about how you can serve them or meet a need. Don't make them a "project" but rather serve them because you want them to catch a glimpse of the love of Jesus.