

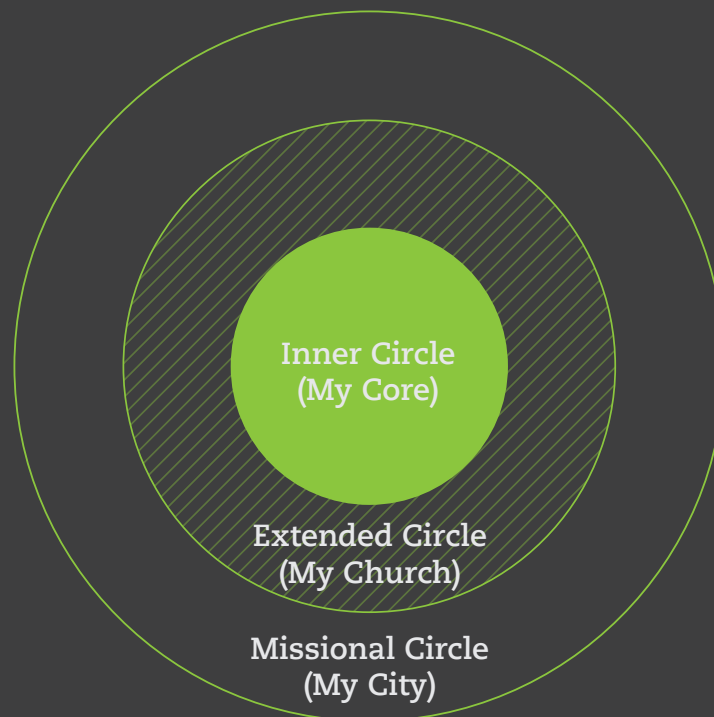
## The Power of the Towel

### *cultivating a life of serving*

Because of Christ in us, Christ-followers serve. What does healthy, balanced service look like? What can we strive for? As Jesus followers, we live in three recognizable spheres of influence.

3 Circles of Influence	Who?	Why?	How?	Personal Metric
<b>Inner Circle</b> (my core)	Family Life group Close friends	New Testament examples of service begin with the "one anothers"	Common, everyday acts of service	Am I serving and being served by those closest to me?
<b>Extended Circle</b> (my church)	Those God has placed in our church  Those who worship with us	Meeting needs within the larger church body	Organized service - Ministry teams - Commissioned leaders	Am I using my gifts to serve my church family?
<b>Missional Circle</b> (my city)	Those God has placed in our city  The poor, needy, sick and lost	Jesus demonstrates the love of His Father by meeting needs of those around Him.	Identify and meet needs of neighbors and those in our city.	Am I demonstrating God's love by meeting needs and sharing the message of the Gospel?

Healthy service is balanced across three circles of influence.



## **INNER CIRCLE: My Core**

### **Who is in my inner circle?**

- Family
- Small group
- Close friends

### **Why prioritize the inner circle?**

Healthy relationships with Christ and the people closest to us are vital for spiritual health. The people who know us best are often the people God uses to renew and sharpen us. God uses community to make us more into His image. We help and encourage one another.

Common acts of service are significant in our lives and the lives of the people closest to us. Without priority, service to the people we love most is subject to be squeezed out by the pressures of life. Service in all areas is affected, both positively and negatively, by the health of our inner circle relationships.

### **Examples of Inner Circle Roles**

- Loving husband, faithful wife: Ephesians 5:22-33, Psalm 128
- Spiritual leader to children and grandchildren: Deuteronomy 6:6-7, Ephesians 6:4
- Honoring parents: Ephesians 6:1-3
- Aging parents, widows: 1 Timothy 5:3-4, 8
- Small Group and close friends: Acts 2:42-47

### **Common Service Examples**

- Using everyday moments to teach your child who God is and how He has revealed Himself.
- Surprising your spouse with a special gift, or doing a favor without being asked.
- Attending your child's game or school play.
- Helping a friend be accountable to study their Bible.
- Leading family dinner table devotions.
- Watching the kids for a member of your life group.
- Helping with household chores.  
Spending an afternoon with an aging parent.

### **Personal Metric:**

Am I serving and being served by those closest to me?

## **EXTENDED CIRCLE: My Church**

### **Who is in my extended circle?**

- Those God has placed in our church
- Those who worship with us

### **What is the purpose of the extended circle?**

The extended circle is the structured way New Testament believers served the larger needs of the church. Through the church we exercise our gifts for the mutual benefit of one another.

### **Examples Of Extended Service Roles**

- Organized ministry: Acts 6:1-6
- Commissioned offices of service (elders, deacons): Acts 14:23, 1 Timothy 3, Ephesians 4:11-12
- Ministry helpers: Romans 16:1-15
- Giving through the local church: Acts 5:32-37, 2 Corinthians 8:1-5, Philippians 4:15-18

### **Service Examples in My Extended Circle**

- Serving with or leading a ministry team (such as kids, students, greeters or worship/media)
- Teaching a Bible Study or serving as a Small Group Leader
- Serving in outreach events
- Organizing, planning, and event set-up
- Ministering to those who need care in our faith family
- Devoting time and resources to a goal shared by the larger church family

### **Personal Metric:**

*Am I using my gifts to serve my church family?*

## **MISSIONAL CIRCLE: My City**

### **Who is in my missional circle?**

- Those God has placed in our city
- Those who live among us
- The lost, poor, needy, and sick

### **What is the purpose of the missional circle?**

A Christ-centered worldview transforms everyday encounters into divine appointments for sharing the Gospel. The missional circle covers all realms of life and relationships – co-workers, neighbors, parents of your kid's playmates, gym partner, grocery clerk and coffee barista. Through organized outreach ministry or random encounters, we seek opportunities to show compassion to the hurting and share the Gospel with people who do not know Jesus.

### **Examples Of Missional Service Roles**

- One-on-one discipleship: Acts 8:26-35, Acts 9:26-31, Acts 18:24-26
- Seeking the lost: Luke 15
- Helping the poor, needy, and sick: Matthew 25:35-36, Luke 10:30-37, Acts 9:36-39
- Generosity: Acts 10:1-2, 1 Timothy 6:17-18
- Hospitality to strangers: Acts 16:14-15, Acts 18:1-3

### **Service Examples in My Missional Circle**

- Engaging and building relationships for the purpose of sharing the Gospel and calling for a response.
- Distributing food boxes each month with my life group.
- Helping someone meet a basic need, praying with them, and engaging in conversations that reveal spiritual needs.
- Becoming involved in a city ministry that serves the needs of people who have little gospel influence.
- Engaging friendships with a new family in your neighborhood for the purpose of Gospel conversations.
- Coaching a kid's city league team, praying with kids, engaging relationships with parents.

### **Personal Metric:**

*Am I demonstrating God's love by meeting needs and sharing the message of the Gospel?*