



Rick Warren identifies five major purposes that God has for every believer: worship God, fellowship with believers, discipleship to become more like Jesus, service or ministry, and finally a personal mission. Today we start a 3-part series on service: you were created to serve God. *“For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do”* (Ephesians 2:10). Consider the following. Which do you easily accept? Which do you find more challenging?

- You are a custom-designed, one-of-a-kind, original masterpiece. (p. 235)
- God designed you to make a difference with your life. (p. 227)
- Regardless of your job or career, you are called to *full-time* Christian service. (p. 229)
- Jesus said, “I did not come to be served, but to serve.” (Matthew 20:28)
- Jesus said, “As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.” (John 20:21)
- Most of the time we’re more interested in “*serve us*” than *service*. (p. 231)
- Service is the pathway to real significance. Through ministry we discover the meaning of our lives. (p. 232)

Indira Ghandi had an interesting perspective on service: “My grandfather once told me that there were two kinds of people: those who do the work and those who take the credit. He told me to try to be in the first group; there was much less competition.” In his book, *On Becoming a Leader*, Warren Bennis says, “Managers are people who do things right, while leaders are people who do the right thing.”

God deliberately shaped and formed you to do the right thing . . . to serve him in a unique way. Now He wants to use you to make a difference in the world. What better place is there to do that than at the United Nations, the crossroads of the world? How do you think God wants to bless and serve others through you today?

1. Read Jeremiah 1:1-3. What is the historical context of Jeremiah’s life?
2. How was Jeremiah equipped for his ministry? (Jer. 1:4-5. compare Psalm 139:13-16)
3. What was Jeremiah’s reasonable response to God’s assignment? (Jer. 1:6)
What “reasonable” objections have you used when God gave you an assignment?
4. What promises or provisions did God make to Jeremiah? To you? (Jer. 1:7-10)
Read Jeremiah 1:17-19. What else do you see?
5. He didn’t want to begin and he often wanted to quit, but Jeremiah was faithful to his calling. (Jer. 20:9)
What does your heart burn for? Think of someone God has put in your life so you can minister to them.
6. What was the result of his ministry? (Jer. 7:27-28)

*“God works through different men in different ways,
but it is the same God who achieves his purposes through them all.”*
(1 Corinthians 12:6 Phillips)