

This week, Pastor Sharon presents the fifth installment in the six-part series entitled "40 Days of Community." Pastor Sharon challenges each of us to consider serving together with others to be a living expression of the Body of Christ in our community. It is all about serving God by serving others. Each of us is called to be a minister of Christ to serve others. You can think of it as a dress rehearsal for life in heaven, but it does not just happen. Ministry to and the serving of others requires intentional choices on our part!

Pastor Sharon says that we accomplish more as part of a team than we can accomplish alone. To team up with other people, we need to begin by choosing to trust others, to keep their confidences, and to invest the time that it takes to build a relationship. Becoming part of a team takes investment on our part. If we prove ourselves worthy of trust, and others realize that we will stand by them in good times and in bad times, other people will trust us in return. To be part of a team, we need to consciously slow down and ask the questions that will help us to understand who our fellow team members are and about their concerns. We cannot accommodate the differences of someone else if we do not know what those differences are. We cannot function together to serve God, and to serve others in His name, if we do not consciously make room for each other's faults and individuality. A team is all about making allowances for other people's differences. The diversity within the team is what strengthens the team.

Are you involved with others, serving others? Is your face the "face" of Christ that another person will look into? Jesus assembled 12 men as His disciples and sent them on their first mission "two by two." No one went alone! There was always a teammate. God never intended you to work for Him by yourself. Have you purposely chosen your team? Do you have something you do that serves others instead of only serving yourself and your own interests? There are opportunities to answer God's call all around you. Will you answer that call?