

## Teen Devotion

Year C – Proper 22

Lord, Increase Our Faith



**One truth shared:** It is our duty and a delight to serve God because we know everything we have comes from him.

*Then King David said to the whole assembly: “My son Solomon, the one whom God has chosen, is young and inexperienced. The task is great, because this palatial structure is not for man but for the Lord God. With all my resources, I have provided for the temple of my God... But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this? Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand. Lord our God, all this abundance that we have provided for building you a temple for your Holy Name comes from your hand, and all of it belongs to you.”*

**1 Chronicles 29:1,2,14,16**

### Lord, Increase Our Faith that Delights in Duty

Being a Christian is not like a video game where you have to complete missions and objectives in order to level up. But when it comes to our faith life, we have to be careful not to treat it the same way, as in doing good to level up as a Christian. That kind of mentality can lead to frustration or laziness when serving God.

Take David for an example. Think of the level of Christian he would have been. He slayed Goliath, became king of Israel. He led God’s people to become a great empire. He wrote a large section of the Bible. And now, here is David at the end of his life. He is collecting a crazy amount of money and materials to build God a temple. That would make him at least a level 99 Christian, yet he says things like, “But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this?” And “I know, my God, that you test the heart and are pleased with integrity. All these things I have given willingly and with honest intent. And now I have seen with joy how willingly your people who are here have given to you.”

Even after all of the good things David had done for God, it was still a delight for him to serve God because it came from faith. David recognized the awesomeness, patience, love, mercy, and generosity God had shown him in his life. David wasn’t serving God to *get* to level 100 Christian. David was delighted to serve God because God had already *made* him a perfect level 100 Christian through faith. David didn’t have to earn it. David simply recognized the gift of forgiveness and heaven God had given to him. And so, no matter how many times David served God or no matter how difficult it was to do so, David delighted to serve God.

God has made you also level 100 Christian—forgiven, holy, and perfect in God’s sight. Let this truth make your duty to serve God a delight and not a burden.

**Prayer:** Lord Jesus, thank you for opening my eyes to delight in serving you. Recognizing that everything I have was given by you, may I count it a privilege to imitate my Savior’s service and give myself in service to you and others. Amen.

# Foundation Teen Facilitators Guide

## Year C – Proper 22

### Lord, Increase Our Faith

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### Lord, Increase Our Faith that Delights in Duty

**Starting the Discussion:** *This first section is intended to be light and easy, to engage and get the conversation going. Have a little fun with these questions.*

Create a top five list of the greatest video games of all time that require leveling up. *Note: If your group is not into video games enough to have this debate, you can just go around the room and ask for their favorite level up video games. If that stalls, just ask for everyone's favorite video game and why it is their favorite.*

**Connecting:** *This section serves as a bridge between the opening conversation and the body of the study/discussion. It should get the group thinking about the topic/text even before they've looked at it.*

If the Bible was a level up video game, which Bible character would be the highest-level Christian and why? (You can't say Jesus, God, or the Holy Spirit.) *Note for Leader: Circle back to David if someone brings him up. If not, suggest David as a high-leveled Christian for all of the things he did. The Bible even calls him a man after God's own heart. At the end of David's life/career, he collected materials to build a temple for God which would have given him huge Christian level-up points. Read the section of scripture from 1 Chronicles 29. What do you notice about the way David views his service to God?*

**Digging In:** *Here we want to dig into some texts or the text for the day and see what Scripture says. The questions are meant to be open ended to give a beginning of a scriptural conversation. These are a guide for a spiritual and scriptural conversation.*

- Turn to 1 Chronicles 29:1-2,10-18. When David finished his service of collecting the materials for the temple, notice how he gives all glory and praise to God. Why might David have been tempted to give glory and praise to himself? (vv. 10-13)
- According to David, why is God worthy of all honor and glory?
- Look at verses 14-18. Why did David see his service to God as a privilege and not a burden?
- David did not see his service as a chance to level up or make himself better in God's eyes. If that is what service to God actually does, why might a person get frustrated or discouraged serving God?
- If serving God was a way to level up as a Christian, why might a Christian be tempted to get lazy with serving God or not feel like they even have to?
- Knowing that serving God comes as a response to what God has done for you gives us genuine delight to serve him. How so? *(Struggling to find an answer? Ask this, "When are you most excited to do chores for your parents? There are usually two answers. Either leading up to something good or as a result of something good.) What David is telling us is that service to God is not so that we earn something good. Service to God comes following something good. That good is grace which results in heaven.*

**Conclusion:** *Here we want to wrap up the discussion, perhaps circling back to the "connecting question" above.*

- Why do Christians, especially teenage Christians, sometimes struggle to serve God or serve him with delight?
- What are some specific ways that you can serve?
- How are you going to maintain your delight in serving God?