

# Serving in Small Ways

By RLD Editorial Team

for use as  
**STEP 1** 

**Lesson 9****Focus:**

No job is too small for  
God's people.

**Lesson 9****Bible Basis:**

Acts 6:1-7

**Lesson 9****Memory Verse:**

From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.  
—Ephesians 4:16

**As students view a video of the internal workings of an analog watch, they will consider the important parts that individual believers play within the church.**

**Materials:**

- Internet access

**Have you ever seen the inside of an analog, or non-digital, watch? You probably haven't given much thought to how they work. Let's take a look at the inner workings of an automatic mechanical watch.**

Play the following video for your students [0:51]:

How a Mechanical Watch Works

<https://www.youtube.com/shorts/nRUKEQhnjQs>

**Inside a watch there are over 130 moving pieces, most of them smaller than a grain of rice! And if you remove even a single piece—one rice-sized scrap of metal—the entire watch stops working. *Every piece is essential.* It's mind-blowing how a bunch of tiny, seemingly useless objects can come together to create something amazing!**

- **Can you think of other examples where many small things come together to create something greater?** (This can be literally anything, from thousands of Legos coming together to build miniature cities to diverse sports teams coming together to accomplish great victories.)
- **Have you ever felt that your role in a team was insignificant?** (This might be a good place for the teacher to speak first, opening up about their own experiences. Keep in mind the focus of the lesson: No job is too small for God's people.)
- **Have you ever refused, or been tempted to refuse, a job or role on a team because you felt it wasn't important enough?** (Accept all reasonable responses.)

**Very often we miss opportunities to serve or fill a need because we feel we will be undervalued in the role. Today we will be looking at how God's people respond to such situations...**

Additional resources:

Every part of a watch movement, from screw to pinion

<https://timeandtidewatches.com/watch-movement-parts-watch-education/>

(Continue on to Steps 2 and 3 in your teacher's guide; your Step 4 appears below.)

middle school



Lesson 9 / May 24, 2026

# Serving in Small Ways

for use as  
**STEP 4** 

**Lesson 9**

**Focus:**

No job is too small for  
God's people.

**Lesson 9**

**Bible Basis:**

Acts 6:1-7

**Lesson 9**

**Memory Verse:**

From him the whole body, joined and  
held together by every supporting  
ligament, grows and builds itself up in  
love, as each part does its work.  
—Ephesians 4:16

**Materials:**

- None

Sometime prior to your time together, reach out to your church leadership to collaborate on a list of needs within the church. Options might include a hosting a puppet show depicting a Bible story for younger kids in the church; making and sending cards of encouragement to elderly shut-ins; picking up litter and/or pulling weeds on the church grounds; or assisting with the church's food pantry.

**We saw how the early church was quick to divide up the tasks of ministry and service between all the different people. The apostles knew that God had entrusted to them a specific job—preaching and praying—and the men like Stephen and the others gladly took on their (less glamorous!) role in distributing the food to the other believers. When everyone was eagerly serving where they were needed, the wonderful result was that the church actually grew and expanded!**

**God calls every one of His people to a unique role within His church. And not all of them are necessarily very glamorous. Remembering how God blessed the eagerness of Stephen in his new role, now it is your turn to discern God's will for where you can serve.**

Share any needs your church family has that your students can perform in their current situation. Walk them through each item, describing and commenting on why the role is important within the life of the church.

➤ **Do any of these jobs appeal to you? Or more importantly, are there any that *don't* appeal?** (Encourage the students to be honest. There may be some jobs that no one wants to fill—emphasize that this is a place the students can best serve. Really encourage a lively discussion about where they can best serve. Throw out ideas where a small group might serve, such as a family, or where individual students can fill needs.)

➤ **What would happen if nobody ever filled one or more of these needs?** (Accept all reasonable answers. Demonstrate how even seemingly small jobs can make or break a church—like picking up trash, etc.)

**We are all called to serve. It may not always be in the ways we want or imagined, but every little job is important in God’s church. Remember the many moving parts hidden away inside a watch; remember all the moving pieces required to make a watch work! Little jobs matter everywhere, especially in the church. God will bless you as you eagerly pursue Him and seek to serve His people.** Challenge your students to pick at least one “small job” they will do for God’s people this week. Encourage the students to always be looking for ways to fill needs in the church, even after this lesson. Don’t let the momentum fade!

Close with prayer as a group or with individual students.

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