



Service

What does it look like in
your world?

By Margo Bodishbaugh

Dear Beautiful G.G. (God-seeking Girlfriend),

Have you ever pretended to be asleep at an opportune time?

The other morning, the first sound I was aware of was a disgusted grunt from my husband. He is the first one up in the mornings and had just opened the bathroom door.

“Dogs!” He grumbled in a frustrated murmur.

I knew that tone. It did not bode well for the dogs.

At first I squeezed my eyes shut. Then I heard a shuffle beneath my bed. I sneaked a peek. There, shaky with fear and possible embarrassment was Elvis. Elvis is our little fluffy white dog. He is a bit of a Sissy-dog, but in my mind that just makes him more lovable. He needs a protector.

“Shhhhhh... Be still.” I mouthed, as if Elvis could understand an unwritten concept. If the mother is up, she is the automatic default cleaner of all things gross from animals and children.

I closed my eyes and lay very still.... I heard the faucet running.... I heard the cabinet door slam....I started to feel a little guilty.

I heard scrubbing. My precious husband scrubbed the carpet, grunting irritated breaths with each push of the cloth. What a servant. I couldn't stand it.

“Honey, what is it?” I half whispered, even though I already had a really good idea.

“**Dog – scrub – pooped – scrub – on – scrub – the – scrub – carpet! – large exhale.**”

“Oh no... Thank you for cleaning it.” I glared at cowering Elvis.

I rolled out of bed, frowned at Elvis and was ready to face the mess (literally and figuratively).

This made me ponder:

Do I wish for someone else to clean up the messes I don't create?

Do I pretend to be asleep, or not see when someone is in need of help?

Am I willing to serve even in 'gross' circumstances?

On the other hand, do I think I am the only one able to handle certain situations?

Do I allow others to step out of their comfort zone instead of 'handling it' myself?

Verses We Can Boldly Pray

"Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms." 1 Peter 4:10 NIV

"Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, serving as overseers--not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not greedy for money, but eager to serve;"
1 Peter 5:2 NIV

"Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully".
Romans 12:4-8 NIV

On one hand, I was truly thankful that my sweet husband had been so thoughtful to clean up the dog's mess. On the other hand, he had used one of our GOOD washcloths. Can you roll your eyes at the written word? I never said a word.

Truth in Action

1. Note a time when you avoided a situation you felt God had placed in your path. Did it resolve itself?
2. Note a time when someone didn't handle a situation the way you would. Was it a total disaster?
3. Ask God to help you truly see where He wants you to step in and serve.
4. Ask God to help you appreciate the gifts He has given His other children.
5. Give thanks to God for the way He made you.

G.G. let's be aware where God wants us to serve His Kingdom, but at the same time appreciate the gifts of others, even if they don't do it exactly like we would.

G.G.



Margo Bodishbaugh lives in the South and loves hunting and fishing...hunting for things that are sparkly and fluffy, and fishing for God's Kingdom.

Margo started writing G. G. (God-Seeking Girlfriend) Notes several years ago to stay in touch with her Bible Study small group.