

## **GROWING INTO MATURITY – PART 1**

### **Overcoming Obstacles**

In this lesson, you will learn about obstacles that keep people from serving and doing the work of the ministry. You will also discover three key things that motivate people to minister to others. [Ephesians 4:16] *...from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.*

- I. Three things that motivate people to minister
  - A. Compassion (Matthew 9:36)
  - B. Surrender/Obedience
  - C. Felt Sense of Responsibility
  
- II. Ask yourself these three questions in regard to serving
  - A. If not me, who?
  - B. If not here, where?
  - C. If not now, when?
  
- III. Obstacles that keep people from serving
  - A. Fear (2 Timothy 1:7)
  - B. Self-focus
  - C. Distractions
  
- IV. Coming out of the cave
  - A. Judges 6:11-15 – Gideon was hiding in the winepress when God spoke to him and said He was with him and called him a mighty man of valor. Gideon told God his clan was the weakest and he was the least in his father's house. God once again told Gideon He would be with him and he would defeat the Midianites as one man.  
\* NOTE: Do not get in a cave and hide because of fear, shame, guilt, comparison, or distractions.
  - B. Exodus 3 and 4 – Moses said to God, “*Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and that I should bring the children of Israel out of Egypt?*”(3:11) God told Moses, *I will certainly be with you* (3:12) God told Moses to take the rod that was in his hand and with it he would do signs – We must identify what is in our hand we can use for ministry

### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

- Have obstacles of fear, self-focus, or distractions kept you from serving? How?
- What can you identify that has God put in your hand to reach or minister to people?
- Discuss some practical ways we can do our share and carry our load in ministry.

### **BE A DOER OF THE WORD**

This week, contact an area of ministry where you would like to be involved and begin the process of serving. Don't let fear, self-focus, or distractions keep you from serving others.

**SCRIPTURE MEMORY VERSE:** Ephesians 4:16 – *From whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, cause growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.*