



Chatham
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Raising Faith Stories

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What would our world look like without the people who devote their lives to serving others? I hope I never find out.

As a rising senior at UNC-Chapel Hill, I've spent a chunk of my time serving as a leader for a Christian ministry called Young Life. My role as a leader is to share the Gospel and build long-lasting friendships with students at Orange High School, located in Hillsborough. On a weekly basis, I spend a considerable amount of time planning and executing large group events and bible studies as well as hanging out with guys that I have met at the school.

Every Young Life leader hears questions like: Why do you want to hang out with high schoolers? Isn't that awkward? Absolutely. Yet, what compels us to willingly engage in such interactions is the desire to serve a higher calling. To share what we believe is the truth. That's what drives me. Although leading high schoolers can be hard and uncomfortable and frustrating, it's a decision that has changed my life for the better.

Serving in Young Life has given me an incredible community of people who genuinely love and care for one another. Whether it's with fellow leaders or my high school friends, some of my most treasured friendships in life have come from the root decision I made as a freshman in college to become a leader.

Service has also matured me and taught me what being a man of God looks like. The Bible teaches us to love our neighbors before ourselves and that the last shall be first. I believe that God makes it explicitly clear that He rewards those who care for others. I've noticed this in my own life as the moments I've felt the most fulfilled are when I think of myself less and more of others. I'm sure you've felt this too. Something is right and good about setting your own selfishness aside to make someone else's day.

At times I think about different directions I could've taken my college experience, such as spending more time building up my professional resumé or finding a job where I would be making a lot more money than I do now. While those are awesome things to strive for, I have never once regretted the time I've spent serving the Lord and serving others. That's what is important to me; what gives me joy.

What I'm not trying to leave you with in this story is that I'm the perfect servant, because I'm not. Far from it actually. Instead, my goal is to encourage you to step outside of your comfort zone and consider serving. Find the issues you're passionate about and take a step to help. Even if it's a small one. It's one of the most life-giving decisions I've ever made and it will be for you too.

The world could use a few more servants.