

# The Rooted Experience with John Thomas from Mariners Church - Episode 358

## *Serving as Spiritual Formation (Part 4)*

It is possible to integrate serving into your spiritual formation strategy in a practical and effective way. We're seeing churches all across the country do it.

In recent years, churches we serve have been telling us they love [The Rooted Experience](#).

So, in part four of this series on *Serving as Spiritual Formation*, Tony interviews Pastor John Thomas from Mariners Church in California about *The Rooted Experience*. John shares how *Rooted* is helping people connect to faith and the church, why it is so effective and how Mariners Church encourages people to engage in serving opportunities as part of their spiritual formation.

## Key Quotes

1. JOHN: "We want to bring people into an environment where we're not just learning about information about the practice of Christianity, but we're actually putting it into practice."
2. JOHN: "I think we serve our people well when we have a simplified and accessible approach of: How do I grow? → How do I get connected? → How do I find community?"
3. JOHN: "We are most like Jesus when we are serving others."
4. JOHN: "The church is at its best when it's serving together, and we're at our best when we're equipping people to do that."

## Self-Assessment: How Are We Doing?

1. What is our strategy for discipleship? Is that strategy working (i.e., does our church see the value in serving and do we have an abundance of volunteers)?
2. Thinking about the "Transformational Loop" John mentions, how do we currently equip our people in each area?
  - a. Follow Jesus (weekend services, reading the Bible, etc.)
  - b. Grow Together (life groups, discerning gifts, etc.)
  - c. Serve One Another (volunteer opportunities that activate specific gifts)
  - d. Change the World (serving those outside the church)
3. If we were to rate ourselves in each of these areas, which would be the weakest? What changes could we make to strengthen it?

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