

One Sunday morning 11 years ago, we lost our youngest daughter. We couldn't find her anywhere. Church had finished, we'd waded through the coffee hour, and everyone had left but us. So as we packed up, we called our three kids together. Josh? Check. Rachel? Check. Sarah? Sarah...? Where was Sarah? At 6 years old, she could be anywhere, and as time passed and our calling got louder, we got more and more worried. When we had checked the entire upper floor, we headed to the basement – the gym, fellowship hall, classrooms, and kitchen. We began in the gym, but soon hear the sound of running water and chattering conversation coming from the kitchen. We entered and found the church ladies cleaning up the dishes after our coffee hour, and in the middle of them was our Sarah, towel in hand and chatting away with the others.

Sarah showed early on that she reflected God's image, specifically that of God our Helper. For the last 17 years, Sarah has found herself in her passion for helping others. Tutoring, lifeguarding, mentoring, doing the AV for our worship services – even her choice of the medical profession reveals Sarah's identity as a Helper. This is how she uniquely reflects God's image.

As we look at 9 ways we all reflect God's image, we're going to focus in on this piece of God's character.

*For even the Son of God came not to be served, but to serve
and to lay down His life as a ransom for many.” – Mark 10:36*

“Oh God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come...” God has created not just our curiosity as we discussed yesterday, but also a longing to help others. When we see someone in need, it usually takes an outside force to keep us from helping. Unfortunately, in our world, those outside forces are many and varied. Our rush to fill our every minute means that taking time to help someone cannot be spontaneous as most help requests are. “I'm sorry, I can't. [I just don't have the time.](#)” Our fear of each other keeps us from helping anyone broken down on the road. Our greed often keeps our dollars in our wallets when someone asks for a hand out, as proven by the [statistical fact](#) that the lower the income bracket, the most likely one is to offer money when asked. Cynicism, peer pressure, distraction, and even political bias keep us from reflecting this aspect of God's character.

Remember the story of Jesus' birth? His mother Mary is visited by an angel, who tells her that God has chosen her to bear and then rear His Son, Jesus, the Messiah they've been waiting for. And what is Mary's response? When asked to bear one of the most significant burdens in human history, Mary simply says, “I am your servant. May your word to me be fulfilled.” While most of us balk at someone asking for a dollar on the street corner, Mary submits to this request that more than likely would cost her a fiancée, her reputation, and possibly even her life. A Helper indeed.

Is this familiar in your own life? When asked to help, are you quick to agree with joy? Do you view the world as a gathering of people needing help, and yourself as one with the ability to serve? Or are request for help impositions on your busy schedule? Are people in need “less” than those who are self-sufficient? These questions can help you to see how much you personally lean into this aspect of God's character.