

My Faith Story

I am Karen and would like to share my journey in serving God and determining whether my service choices are what I want to do or what He wants me to do.

I have a strong interest in volunteering to serve wherever I can. I am a leader of a small group Bible study, the facilitator of a caregiver support group and hostess for the Sunday morning coffee fellowship. I am also a member of a small group discussing the book, ***Experiencing God***. **This book has changed my expectations and understanding of serving God.**

In 2019, I orchestrated a caregiver conference with the intention of creating a caregiver support group that did not happen. Then COVID in 2020 & 2021 dramatically changed everything I had planned and in May 2021, I contracted COVID pneumonia.

After recovering from COVID, I felt ready to restart my activities and add to the things I had been doing. I wanted to start a new Bible study at a nursing home, restart the coffee fellowship and start the caregiver support group. Although recovered from COVID, now home obligations require more of me and my time, and I am still running my business.

In November, the Bible study started and after three weeks, the nursing home shut down for COVID with the schedule changing week to week. I resumed the Sunday coffee fellowship. Announcement for the start of a caregiver support group was made and after two months, despite expressed interest, no one was attending the meetings.

With the increased demands on me, I became overwhelmed. How do I slow down? What do I give up? After prayer and consideration, I put the nursing home Bible study and coffee fellowship on indefinite hold and will continue the caregiver support group for an additional four months, my commitment to God.

Then a strange thing happened. The day of the support group meeting came with a hectic schedule. I nearly forgot and almost did not attend because I got involved in a project. Should I even go? With the way things were going, the day I would not go would be the day someone would come. I grabbed up my project to work on while I waited in what may be an empty meeting room and rushed to the meeting. I was two minutes late when I pulled into the parking lot. I saw a gentleman coming out of the building and his was the only other vehicle there.

I asked if he was here for the support group meeting and he answered "yes, but the building is empty." We went in and had our meeting. Praise God! I almost had not come. Three days before, I relinquished two projects which I thought were God-led. Now this group that had no attendees suddenly may have come to life! Is this God's will for me? Coincidence or affirmation?! Time will tell.

When we serve Him in a way we feel comfortable, that service may not be where He wants us to be. Being a bystander is not an option. We need to be looking and listening where he wants to lead us and be willing to change our course, if needed. **God has the wisdom I need for the decisions I'm facing.**

"If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you." James 1:5 (NIV)