



# THE BIG SERVE

2023-05-14

## Leader Notes

**OVERVIEW:** Welcome to our study, THE BIG SERVE! The highest standing a person can achieve in life is that of a servant. Our Master Jesus didn't come to be served but to serve others, even to the point of sacrificing his own life for us. Serving others mimics Jesus, honours God, makes us healthy, meets needs and blesses the ones being served in ways nothing else can. When we serve together, such as in THE BIG SERVE, we also discover the joy of synergy along with knowing and encouraging others. The goal of today's study is that you would grow your heart to serve others and that your LifeGroup would participate in THE BIG SERVE!

**ICEBREAKER:** That Was Exceptional Service!

Two summers ago our family vacationed for a few days in Montreal. While we were there we went out for dinner to a restaurant recommended by a friend. The service we had at the restaurant was exceptional and we count that experience as one of the most memorable parts of our time there. How about you? What experience have you had of exceptional or caring service? Share your story with the group!

## **STUDY:**

The Bible has a great deal to say about servanthood because a central theme of the Bible is the Servant, Jesus Christ. Let's explore how Jesus' model of serving can inspire us to be servants like Him.

### 1. Whoever Wants to Be Great Among You Must Be Your Servant

In the account you're about to read in Mark 10, two of Jesus' disciples ask Jesus for special places of honour in his kingdom. When the rest of the disciples hear about their request, they are indignant because they wish they would have asked first! In response to this, Jesus gives his disciples a valuable lesson on greatness and servanthood.

**READ:** Mark 10:42-45

42 Jesus called them together and said, "You know that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. 43 Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, 44 and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. 45 For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

- Using the theme of Jesus' teaching in these verses, how would you define servanthood?

**LEADER NOTE:** In his teaching in these verses, Jesus juxtaposes our culture's view of greatness with his definition of greatness. Greatness, according to Jesus, is about putting others before ourselves. This is the heart of servanthood. Jesus even goes so far to say a servant is "slave to all"! In his definition of servanthood, Jesus points to himself as the example. Jesus served by giving his life for us.

- In these verses Jesus overturns the value structures of the world. Instead of greatness being about rule and authority, Jesus says, "Not so with you." Why is this message so challenging for us?

**LEADER NOTE:** In this teaching, Jesus challenges our modern day views of leadership and success. His message is challenging to us for a couple of reasons. First, our natural bent is to seek our own greatness. This is part of our sin nature, to want the spotlight. Jesus' words are also challenging for us because they go against a key value in our culture, to pursue greatness for our own gain - to get ahead in life.

- Jesus says, "... whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant." What do you think this looks like today? In other words - how can we live this out as modern day followers of Jesus?

**LEADER NOTE:** There are two key components to living out the servant example of Jesus. The first is “attitude”. Paul tells us in Philippians 2 that we are to have the same attitude as Jesus (vs. 5) - to think of others ahead of ourselves. The second is “action”. Like Jesus, we must act on his call to serve others. We can live this out in our everyday lives by asking God to help us serve the people around us like Jesus would serve them.

## 2. Jesus’ Example - Washing Feet

In John 13 we read a powerful account of what it looks like to serve others as Jesus serves. This account takes place in the upper room where Jesus and his disciples are gathered for their last supper together. Getting up from the meal, Jesus wraps a towel around his waist and washes the feet of his disciples.

**READ:** John 13:12-17

12 When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. “Do you understand what I have done for you?” he asked them. 13 “You call me ‘Teacher’ and ‘Lord,’ and rightly so, for that is what I am. 14 Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another’s feet. 15 I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. 16 Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. 17 Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.

- Jesus says, “Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another’s feet.” What does this mean for us today?

**LEADER NOTES:** In Jesus’ day, washing feet was a menial task that would typically have been done by a lowly servant. It was an undesirable, dirty job. We might compare it to our modern day task of cleaning toilets. Somebody’s gotta do it! In washing the feet of his disciples, Jesus demonstrated humble servanthood. For us today this means we should be willing to serve others in the humblest of ways. No expression of service is beneath the humble servant of Jesus.

- Jesus says, “Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.” What does this tell us about serving others?

**LEADER NOTE:** If Jesus, our Teacher and Master, was willing to humbly serve us, we should be willing to humbly serve each other. Jesus promises that those who serve as He serves will be blessed.

### 3. God has Gifted You to Serve:

When we serve others, we don't need to do it on our own strength. God gives his people unique gifts and abilities to serve.

**READ** 1 Peter 4:10-11

“Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms. 11 If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.” NIV

God has given you a unique gift (or gifts) to serve others. What are some examples of gifts that God might give us? (see Romans 12:6-8, 1 Corinthians 12:4-11, 28)

**LEADER NOTES:** The spiritual gifts identified in Romans 12 are prophesying, serving, teaching, encouraging, giving, leadership, and mercy. The list in 1 Corinthians 12:4-11 includes the word of wisdom, the word of knowledge, faith, healing, miraculous powers, prophecy, distinguishing between spirits, speaking in tongues and interpretation of tongues. The list in 1 Corinthians 12:28 includes healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues. For a brief description of each of these gifts, go to <https://www.gotquestions.org/spiritual-gifts-list.html>

- What gift or gifts do you believe God has given you to serve?
- What gifts do you see in your fellow LifeGroup members? Share what you see in each other.
- We are to serve others, “as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms.” What does this mean?

**LEADER NOTE:** We are to be faithful stewards of the gifts God has given us. This means we are responsible to steward our gift well, to make sure we are using our gifts to serve. As we do this, we demonstrate God’s grace to one another.

- “If anyone serves, they should do it with the strength God provides ...” Why is this important?

**LEADER NOTE:** If we try serving others in our own strength, it won't achieve its desired end - God's glory. When you desire to honour God with your serving, He will give you the strength you need to serve well.

- “... so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ.” How does this help us understand the end goal of serving?

**LEADER NOTES:** The ultimate goal of our serving is that Jesus would be praised and God would be glorified. This may happen through the person who is served, as they express thanks to God, or through the person who is serving, as they look to God for strength. Our serving shows the world God’s incredible grace and love, and draws our hearts to him.

#### 4. Seeing Myself As a Servant

**READ** 2 Corinthians 4:5

“For what we preach is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus’ sake”. NIV

- How does seeing yourself as a servant help shape your values and mission in life?

**LEADER NOTE:** The early followers of Jesus modeled themselves as servants after their servant, Jesus. Seeing ourselves as servants should shape our values to be like Jesus’ values. John Maxwell has a wonderful question he asks when he interacts with people. “How can I add value to this person?” Questions like this help us live out our mission to serve others.

- What next step do you sense God calling you to take to serve others?

### **THE BIG SERVE**

One of the exciting ways your LifeGroup can be part of what God is doing in our world is THE BIG SERVE! <https://www.creeksidechurch.ca/thebigserve/> Check out the projects your group can be involved in!

### **PRAY:**

Heavenly Father, thank you for your Son, the Lord Jesus, the One who came to serve. Thank you that Jesus showed me the ultimate example of serving by giving his life for me on the cross. Please help me to have the same attitude Jesus had, to serve others as he served. Thank you for giving me gifts and abilities to serve. Help me to discover them and use them well. God, please give me your eyes to see the needs around me. Help me to be aware of ways I can serve the people in my life and give me the strength and courage to serve well. Thank you for THE BIG SERVE. Please use this time to be blessing to many people in our community and to draw people to you. All of this is for your glory, in the Name of your Son, Jesus, AMEN.