



THE BIG SERVE

2023-05-14

Participant 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?
- 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?
- 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?

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?

- 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?

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)

- 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?

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

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

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?
- 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.