



Week of May 13, 2007

The Heart of a Servant

This weekend we celebrated motherhood, witnessed parents dedicating themselves to raising their children for God's glory and heard about how Jesus defines success. As we anticipate all that the Lord has in store for our future, it is a good time to reflect on what it means to truly be a servant of God. Unless we understand what it means to serve as unto Jesus, we will never become a church that reflects the heart and passion of our God.

Sharing Questions

- 1) What are two or three areas where you've enjoyed serving God and others in the past (e.g. church, community service projects, athletic leagues, committees, walk-a-thons, charity events, school functions, camp counselor, etc.)? What did you enjoy most about this service?
- 2) Looking back over your life, what are two or three of your top motivations for serving others?
- 3) What would people who know you the best say are your primary strengths when serving on a team?

Read John 13:1-17

In your own words, paraphrase Jesus' key idea in this passage.

In verse 15, Jesus says that He washed their feet as an example for us to follow. What do you think it means to "wash each other's feet" today? What would be some practical examples?

Jesus said that if we do these things, we will be "blessed" (verse 17). Have you found this to be true in your life – that there is a correlation between serving others and finding fulfillment and purpose in life? Do you have any specific examples you could share with the group?

Read Matthew 19:27-20:16

Jesus is responding to Peter's question about the incredible price the disciples paid to follow Jesus. What are the mistakes that Jesus is warning against?

LIFEgroup homework

What does this passage say to the person who is bothered because others are not working as long or as hard in Christian service for the Lord?

Have you ever complained because God gave others a better deal or payoff?

Have you ever felt unappreciated for your sacrifice for the church? What do you think Jesus would say to you if He were to speak personally to you?

Being a servant is not optional equipment in the Christian life. Service is not just something we do – it's someone we are. What would our church look like if, today, every person decided to follow in the footsteps of Jesus? What do you think might be some of the first noticeable changes?

Topical Prayer

Prayer is a wonderful part of each LIFEgroup. Often those who are new to a LIFEgroup are intimidated to pray aloud or with others present since they have never done it before. Others are so comfortable with prayer that they dominate the time of prayer by going on and on. For these reasons, and more, we practice “topical prayer.”

1) Focus On One Topic At a Time.

Anyone in the group is free to introduce a prayer request either before or during the prayer time. Once a topic is introduced during prayer, the group focuses on that request alone until it’s sufficiently covered. Then the LIFEgroup Leader acts as a DJ, changing the topic to the next prayer request for everyone to weigh in on.

2) Keep Prayers Short & Simple

By keeping prayers short and simple, everyone has more of a chance to pray. Those who are new to prayer feel more comfortable praying because they know they don’t need to pray more than a sentence or two. It also helps people to stay focused on agreeing in prayer with the person praying.

3) Pray More Than Once

Since the group is focusing on one topic at a time – each member is encouraged to pray several times for the topics they feel most passionate about.

Memory Verse:

Matthew 25:21 “His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’ NIV