



Servant Leaders

May 21 & 24, 2026

Ice Breaker

What's one act of service someone did for you recently that really made your day better?

Key Verses

- 1 Timothy 3:8-13
- Matthew 20:26-28
- Philippians 1:1
- 1 Timothy 3:16
- Ephesians 4:16

Questions

How does the world's definition of greatness differ from God's definition, as revealed through Christ's example of service?

Why do you think Paul requires deacons to be 'tested first' before serving? How might this testing process look like in a modern church?

What are the specific qualifications Paul lists for both male and female servant leaders, and why are these character traits important for church leadership?

What does it mean for deacons to hold to the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience, and how does that shape servant leadership today?

How does serving others help us become more like Christ? Can you share an example from your own experience?

What does Paul mean when he says those who serve well 'obtain for themselves a high standing and great confidence in the faith'?

Why is it significant that both men and women can serve as deacons/servant leaders in the church?

How can we cultivate a servant's heart in our daily lives, not just in church ministry?

Life Application

This week, look for one specific way you can serve someone in your church or community without being asked. It could be helping with a ministry, reaching out to someone who needs encouragement, or simply offering practical help to a fellow believer. As you serve, pay attention to how it affects your relationship with Christ and your confidence in prayer.

Key Takeaways

True greatness in God's kingdom comes through humble service, following Christ's example who came to serve rather than be served

Servant leaders (deacons) must be people of dignity, truthfulness, and spiritual maturity who hold firmly to the mystery of faith with clear conscience

Both men and women can serve as servant leaders in the church, with specific qualifications that emphasize character and faithfulness

Those who serve well as deacons gain a high standing and great confidence in their faith, experiencing spiritual transformation through service

Serving others is not just about helping the church function, but is a pathway to becoming more Christlike and growing closer to God

Ending Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank You for the example You set for us as the ultimate servant leader. Help us to embrace the heart of a servant and to see service not as something beneath us, but as the pathway to true greatness in Your kingdom.

Give us courage to say yes when opportunities to serve arise and help us to be faithful in small things so that You can entrust us with greater responsibilities. May our service to others draw us closer to You and give us boldness in prayer and confidence in our relationship with You. Transform our hearts to be more like Yours. Use our service to build up Your church and advance Your kingdom.

In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.