

## “Jesus the Servant”

### Summary

This powerful message invites us into a profound exploration of servanthood through the lens of Jesus himself. We're reminded that Jesus didn't come seeking titles, fame, or recognition—He came with a towel in hand, ready to serve. The image of Jesus washing His disciples' feet, including Judas who would betray Him, challenges everything we think we know about leadership and greatness. The message declares 2026 as the year of 'the never seen before'—a time when God's outstretched hand will perform signs and wonders through servants who operate in boldness and faith. But there's a condition: we must embrace the posture of servanthood ourselves. Drawing from Mark 10:45, we see that Jesus came 'not to be served, but to serve and to give His life.' This isn't just religious activity; it's spiritual action that transforms us into His image. The widow's two francs in the Cameroon story illustrates how acts of faith—even from our poverty—unlock heavenly blessings. When we serve and give with open hands, we experience open heavens. The call is clear: become people who say 'nevertheless' in the face of every challenge, who worship deeply, and who understand that we're never more like God than when we give.

### Main Points – Jesus the Servant

**Sermon Summary:** This sermon explores Jesus as the ultimate model of servanthood, emphasizing that He came not to be served but to serve and give His life as a ransom for many. The message challenges believers to embrace servant-hearted living in 2026, characterized by two key declarations: this is the day for "the never seen before" (miracles and signs) and the year to speak "nevertheless". Dr. Wyns emphasizes that servanthood is not mere religious activity but spiritual ministry, demonstrated through love and generosity. True servants understand that God's hand is always outstretched in signs and wonders, and when believers respond with boldness, they will experience unprecedented miracles. The sermon culminates in the principle that open hands mean open heavens, and that giving releases the supernatural work of God.

#### Key Points:

- Jesus came to serve and give, not to be served—this is the foundation of Christian servanthood
- 2026 is declared as the year for "the never seen before"—unprecedented signs and wonders through bold faith
- "Nevertheless" is the word for challenging times—maintaining faith despite circumstances

- Jesus was not into titles but into towels—He modeled humble service by washing His disciples' feet
- Each believer should use their gifts to serve others, not expecting the pastor to do all ministry
- Servanthood is motivated by love and can be understood by substituting "servant" for "love" in 1 Corinthians 13
- Servants are often unappreciated and taken advantage of, but they are applauded by God
- God's hand is always outstretched in signs and wonders, never withdrawn
- Open hands mean open heavens—giving releases supernatural blessings
- God blesses us not just to acquire things but to be a blessing to others
- This will be the greatest giving and servanthood year ever experienced

#### **Scripture References:**

- Mark 10:45 - "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve and to give His life a ransom for many"
- Ecclesiastes 10:7 - "I have seen servants on horses while princes walk on the ground like servants"
- Psalm 110:3 - "My people must be willing in the day of my power"
- Acts 4:29-30 - Prayer for boldness and God's outstretched hand in signs and wonders
- Proverbs 28:1 - "The righteous are bold as a lion"
- Matthew 24 - Signs of the times and the gospel of the kingdom being preached
- 2 Timothy 2:19 - "Nevertheless, the foundation of the Lord stands sure"
- 2 Timothy 1:12 - Paul's declaration of faith despite suffering
- John 13:3-17 - Jesus washing the disciples' feet
- Luke 22:27 - "I am among you as one who serves"
- Matthew 20:28 - The Son of Man came to serve
- 1 Peter 4:10 - Each should use their gifts to serve others
- John 13:34-35 - The new commandment to love one another
- Galatians 5:22 - The fruit of the Spirit
- 1 Corinthians 13:4-8 - Love/servanthood characteristics
- Ephesians 3:17 - That Christ may dwell in your hearts

# Small Group Study Guide – Jesus the Servant

## Opening Prayer

Begin your time together asking God to help you understand and embrace the heart of a servant, just as Jesus modeled for us.

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## Ice Breaker (5-10 minutes)

**Question:** Share about a time when someone served you in an unexpected or meaningful way. How did it make you feel?

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## Key Scripture References

- **Mark 10:45** - "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve and to give His life a ransom for many."
- **John 13:3-5** - Jesus washing the disciples' feet
- **Philippians 2:5-7** - Christ's example of humility
- **1 Peter 4:10** - Using gifts to serve others

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## Main Themes

### 1. Jesus Came to Serve and Give

Jesus explicitly stated His purpose was not to be served but to serve. He demonstrated this by taking the lowest position—washing feet—a task typically reserved for the lowliest servants.

### 2. Two Declarations for 2026

- **This is the day for the never seen before** - God's hand is outstretched in signs and wonders, requiring boldness from His servants
- **This is the day for "nevertheless"** - Despite challenges and difficulties, we speak faith: "Nevertheless, the foundation of the Lord stands sure"

### 3. Towels Over Titles

Jesus was not interested in titles and recognition. He picked up a towel and served. True kingdom living prioritizes serving over status.

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### Discussion Questions

#### Understanding Servanthood (15-20 minutes)

1. **What struck you most about the image of Jesus washing Judas' feet?** How does this challenge our understanding of serving even those who might betray or hurt us?
2. **Dr. Wyns said, "Jesus was not into titles. He was into towels."** What does this mean practically in our daily lives? Where do we tend to seek titles instead of picking up towels?
3. **Read 1 Corinthians 9:19 together.** Paul said he made himself a servant to everyone to win as many as possible. What freedoms might we need to surrender to truly serve others?

#### The Never Seen Before (15-20 minutes)

4. **Acts 4:29-30 describes believers praying for boldness while God's hand is outstretched in signs and wonders.** What prevents us from operating in this kind of boldness? What would it look like for you personally to step into greater boldness this year?
5. **Dr. Wyns stated that "the never seen before" will be experienced by servants of God through the servant Jesus.** Why do you think servanthood is connected to experiencing God's miraculous power?
6. **Share an area where you're believing for "the never seen before" in your life, family, or community.** How can the group pray for you?

#### The Power of "Nevertheless" (15-20 minutes)

7. **Paul often used the word "nevertheless" when facing difficulties.** Can you share a situation in your life right now where you need to declare "nevertheless"? (Examples: "I'm facing this challenge, nevertheless God's foundation stands sure" or "The circumstances look difficult, nevertheless I know whom I have believed")
8. **Jesus in the garden prayed, "Nevertheless, Your will be done."** What does it take to pray this prayer authentically when facing something difficult?

## Serving and Giving (15-20 minutes)

9. **Dr. Wyns redefined 1 Corinthians 13 replacing "love" with "servant."** Read through those characteristics again (patient, kind, doesn't envy, not proud, etc.). Which characteristic of servanthood is most challenging for you? Which comes most naturally?
10. **The story of the widow in Cameroon demonstrated radical generosity from people with very little.** What does this teach us about giving? How does giving release the supernatural in our lives?
11. **"Open hands mean open heavens. Closed hands mean closed heavens."** What are you currently holding onto that God might be asking you to release?

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## Practical Applications

### This Week's Challenge

Choose **ONE** of the following to practice this week:

#### **Option 1: The Towel Challenge**

- Identify one "lowly" task that needs to be done (at home, work, or church) that others typically avoid
- Do it without announcing it or seeking recognition
- Journal about what God teaches you through the experience

#### **Option 2: The "Nevertheless" Declaration**

- Write down 2-3 challenging situations you're facing
- Write "NEVERTHELESS" after each one, followed by a truth from Scripture
- Pray these declarations daily this week

#### **Option 3: The Generosity Step**

- Ask God to show you someone who needs practical help
- Take an action of faith to meet that need (even if it stretches you)
- Share your testimony with the group next week

#### **Option 4: The Servant Audit**

- List the ways you currently serve in your church, family, and community
- Ask God: "Am I serving out of duty or love? Where do I need a heart adjustment?"
- Identify one new area where God is calling you to serve

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## Group Activity (10-15 minutes)

### Foot Washing or Hand Washing Ceremony

If your group is comfortable, consider doing a modified foot washing or hand washing ceremony:

- Pair up group members
- Have one person wash the other's hands while praying a blessing over them
- Switch roles
- Discuss: How did it feel to serve? How did it feel to be served?

*(Alternative: Simply pray for one another, specifically asking God to increase the servant's heart in each person)*

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## Closing Reflection

### Read together as a declaration:

"I am a servant of the Most High God. I choose to pick up the towel rather than pursue titles. I believe this is the year of the never seen before, and I will walk in boldness because God's hand is outstretched. When challenges come, I will declare 'NEVERTHELESS'— nevertheless, God's foundation stands sure; nevertheless, I know whom I have believed. I will serve and give like Jesus, knowing that open hands mean open heavens."

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## Prayer Time (10-15 minutes)

- Pray for each person to embrace servanthood as a ministry, not just an activity
- Pray for boldness to experience "the never seen before"
- Pray for the strength to declare "nevertheless" in difficult circumstances
- Pray for generous hearts and open hands
- Pray specifically for the needs shared during discussion

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## Before Next Week

- **Memorize:** Mark 10:45 - "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve and to give His life a ransom for many."

- **Read:** John 13:1-17 (Jesus washing the disciples' feet)
- **Reflect:** Journal about one way you served this week and what you learned about Jesus through it

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*"You see, God doesn't bless us just to acquire things. He blesses us more and more so that we can be more and more of a blessing." – Dr. Wyns words from the sermon*

## Discussion Questions – Jesus the Servant

How does understanding Jesus as a servant rather than focusing on titles challenge your own approach to leadership and influence in your community?

What does it mean practically for you to live out 'nevertheless' in 2026 when facing personal challenges or cultural opposition to your faith?

In what ways might you be tempted to seek being served rather than serving, and how can you cultivate the mindset that Jesus modeled?

How does the concept of 'open hands mean open heavens' challenge or affirm your current understanding of generosity and receiving God's blessings?

What 'never seen before' miracle or movement of God are you believing for this year, and what boldness is required from you to participate in it?

How does the image of Jesus washing Judas' feet speak to your willingness to serve those who may betray, hurt, or take advantage of you?

In what areas of your life have you been washing your hands like Pilate rather than picking up the towel like Jesus, and what needs to change?

How can you distinguish between religious activity and genuine spiritual ministry in your own acts of service within the church?

What does it look like for Christ to be 'at home' in your heart, and how would that reality transform your capacity to serve and give?

How does the widow's act of faith in giving her two francs challenge your own understanding of sacrificial giving when you feel you have little to offer?

# Scriptures – Jesus the Servant

## Explicitly Mentioned References:

1. **Mark 10:45** - "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve and to give his life a ransom for many"
2. **Ecclesiastes 10:7** - "I have seen servants on horses while princes walk on the ground like servants"
3. **Psalm 110:3** - "My people must be willing in the day of my power"
4. **Acts 4:29-30** - Prayer for boldness and God's outstretched hand in signs and wonders
5. **Proverbs 28:1** - "The righteous are bold as a lion"
6. **Matthew 24** - Wars, rumors of wars, and signs of the times; gospel of the kingdom preached
7. **2 Timothy 2:19** - "Nevertheless, the foundation of the Lord stands sure"
8. **2 Timothy 1:12** - "I suffer... nevertheless, I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed"
9. **1 Corinthians 9:10** - (Note: likely meant 1 Corinthians 9:19) - "Though I am free and belong to no man, I make myself a servant to everyone"
10. **Philippians 2:5-7** - "Let this mind be in you... made himself of no reputation taking on the form of a bond servant"
11. **John 13:3-5** - Jesus washing the disciples' feet
12. **John 13:13-15** - "You call me teacher and Lord... I have given you an example"
13. **Luke 22:27** - "I am among you as one who serves"
14. **Matthew 20:28** - "The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve"
15. **1 Peter 4:10** - "Each one of you should use whatever gift he has received to serve others"
16. **John 13:34** - "A new commandment I give you, that you love one another"
17. **Galatians 5:22** - The fruit of the Spirit (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control)
18. **1 Corinthians 13:4** - (Referenced as 2 Corinthians 13 in sermon, but content is from 1 Corinthians 13) - Characteristics of love/servanthood
19. **Ephesians 3:17** - "That Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, that you might be rooted and grounded in love"
20. **2 Kings 4** - The widow's oil miracle
21. **John 3:16** - (Alluded to) "God so loved the world that He gave His Son"

## Devotional – Jesus the Servant

### Day 1: The Towel, Not the Title

**Reading:** John 13:3-17

**Devotional:** Jesus, knowing His divine origin and destiny, chose the basin and towel over the throne and crown. In a culture obsessed with status and recognition, He demonstrated that true greatness lies in humble service. The disciples sought positions of honor, but Jesus revealed that kingdom authority flows through servanthood. When we pick up our "towels"—those unglamorous, behind-the-scenes acts of love—we reflect Christ most authentically. Today, consider: Are you pursuing titles or taking up towels? The path to Christlikeness isn't found in seeking recognition but in washing feet. Security in God's love frees us to serve without needing applause. What "towel" is God calling you to pick up today?

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### Day 2: Nevertheless Faith

**Reading:** 2 Timothy 1:8-12

**Devotional:** Paul's life was marked by suffering, persecution, and disappointment, yet his response was consistently "nevertheless." This powerful word separates those who merely survive from those who thrive in adversity. Paul suffered, nevertheless he wasn't ashamed. Circumstances screamed defeat, nevertheless the foundation of the Lord stood sure. This year, cultivate "nevertheless faith"—acknowledging difficulties while refusing to let them define your reality. Wars, rumors, catastrophes may increase, nevertheless the gospel of the kingdom advances. What situation needs your "nevertheless" today? Speak it over your finances, relationships, health, and ministry. God's hand remains outstretched in signs and wonders, waiting for bold servants to declare, "Nevertheless, I believe."

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### Day 3: The Never-Seen-Before

**Reading:** Acts 4:23-31

**Devotional:** When threatened and commanded to silence, the early church didn't pray for protection—they prayed for boldness. They recognized God's hand was already outstretched; they simply needed courage to participate in His supernatural work. The "never-seen-before" doesn't happen through human effort but through divine boldness meeting divine power. God isn't waiting for a crisis to extend His hand—it's perpetually

stretched toward us in signs and wonders. Our part is developing faith that expresses itself in lion-like boldness. The righteous are bold as lions because they know Whose they are. What miracle are you believing for? What "never-seen-before" breakthrough is God preparing? Boldness unlocks the miraculous through the name of the Holy Servant, Jesus.

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## Day 4: Serving and Giving

**Reading:** Mark 10:35-45; 2 Corinthians 9:6-11

**Devotional:** Jesus summarized His entire mission in two words: serve and give. Not to receive applause, build a platform, or establish a legacy—but to pour out His life as a ransom. This upside-down kingdom principle challenges everything our culture values. You're never more like God than when you give, because God so loved that He gave. Open hands create open heavens; closed fists close heaven's windows. Biblical servanthood isn't religious activity but spiritual ministry flowing from love. When Christ is at home in your heart, serving and giving become natural expressions of His presence. The widow's two coins demonstrated more faith than large donations from abundance. What action of faith is God calling you to take? Give from your need, and watch multiplication begin.

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## Day 5: Conformed to His Image

**Reading:** Romans 8:28-29; Philippians 2:5-11

**Devotional:** Every circumstance in your life is working together for one primary purpose: conforming you to the image of Christ. This isn't about behavior modification but heart transformation—becoming like Jesus in servanthood, humility, and love. Jesus, being equal with God, took the form of a servant. He didn't cling to privilege but embraced the towel. As we behold Him—the foot-washer, the servant-giver, the never-seen-before miracle-worker—we are changed into His likeness. The fruit of the Spirit isn't produced through striving but through surrender, allowing Christ to be at home in your heart. Today, ask: In what areas am I resisting transformation? Where is God calling me to greater servanthood? Embrace the process, for you're becoming more like Jesus every day.