

W A Servant to All

Week of Jan 23rd
1 Corinthians 9:19-27

We all recognize that some things are worth sacrificing for, and in the apostle Paul's case, he believed the spread of the gospel was worth every sacrifice. Consequently, he had a single-minded devotion to put the needs of others before his own, that they might embrace Christ as Savior. We too need to be able to hold onto our rights loosely, so that nothing hinders the gospel from going forth.

1. Read 1 Corinthians 9:19-22.
 - What strikes you about Paul's character and heart in verse 19?
 - Paul willingly bent, adapted and sacrificed for various types of people so that they would be more open to the gospel. What are some examples of what that might look like today? As Christ-followers, what are some ways that we can adapt and love, thus making others more open to the gospel?
2. Read 1 Corinthians 9:23. Gospel love is sacrificial.
 - What inspired you about the video of Martha and the ACTS ministry?
 - Knowing how Martha showed sacrificial love, can you think of examples from your life that could open doors for the gospel?
 - Read Mark 14:32-42. How does this passage highlight Christ's sacrificial love for us?
3. Read 1 Corinthians 9:24-27. In context, Paul is referring to being willing to give up his rights for the sake of another. This does not come naturally. It takes discipline and intentionality, much like being the one to win the race takes a lot of discipline and sacrifice.
 - Why is Paul so motivated to sacrifice and give of himself?
 - What is the "imperishable wreath" that he was looking toward?
 - What are some practical ways that we can keep our eyes on the "imperishable wreath" and not the ones that are just temporary?
4. Who are some of the people who don't yet know Christ, that God has placed in your life? Can you think of ways you could build bridges with them, to hopefully open up the door for the gospel? What are some of the ways you might need to adapt, bend or sacrifice in order to connect with them?

In your breakout groups, spend time praying for each other, for the people who God has placed around you and for wisdom on how to love them well.

NOTES:

OTHER RESOURCES

READY TO GO DEEPER?

Studying God Character and Attributes

Each week we will study a different facet of God's character. As we fix our eyes on Him, our prayer is that it will enrich our awe and worship of Him, and that our trust in Him will grow as we seek to follow and glorify Him.

This week we will study Christ as the ultimate Servant (written by Traci Hollingsworth)

Paul became a servant to all so as to win some. He was modeling His life after the life of Christ, who sacrificed his very life for us. Study the following scriptures to learn more about Christ as the One who came to serve and not be served...

Isaiah 42:1-4 / Matthew 3:16-17 / Matt. 12:9-21
Mark 10:35-45
John 13:1-17
Philippians 2:6-8
Matt 20:25-28

- How does focusing on Christ as the ultimate servant increase your worship of Him?
 - How does the servant heart of Christ encourage or challenge you?

"The authority by which the Christian leader leads is not power but love, not force but example, not coercion but reasoned persuasion. Leaders have power, but power is safe only in the hands of those who humble themselves to serve." – John Stott

Outside our Walls

FOOD FOR OUR CITY

Through our ACTS ministry, we have the chance to help fight food insecurity in our city.

If you attend on campus services, you can drop off food donations on weekends, or you can drop them off during the week.

To find a list of food items needed, go to www.woodmenvalley.org/ACTS

DIVE IN ON YOUR OWN TO GET READY FOR NEXT WEEKEND

Walk Carefully

1 Corinthians 10:1-22