

DEEPER

THE DISCIPLINE OF SERVICE



OPENING

- Pray that God would challenge and direct every single member of the group in the coming moments of reflection and discussion.

SERMON REVIEW

- We like being served, because it makes us feel like we matter. God has called us to serve others, because they do matter.
- *Service* leaves us in control (we get to choose when, where, and how); *servanthood* surrenders us to the will of God.
- Luke 9:46-48 and Mark 9:35 state the principle that “Anyone who wants to be first must be the very last, and the servant of all.”
- C.S. Lewis wrote, "Humility doesn't mean thinking less of yourself, it means thinking of yourself less."
- We like to choose where we serve, but he calls us to be servants of all.
- What does it look like to be a servant of all?
- *It's all for the love of God.* It's not simply human effort; it trusts God with the outcome. (1 John 5:3, 4:19)
- *It's a lifestyle.* It's not something we do from time to time, or as a one-time event. Service becomes second nature if we practice it constantly, especially when we demonstrate faithfulness despite our feelings. Finally, it doesn't need to be seen nor applauded. (Matthew 6:1-4, John 9:4)
- *It builds community.* We all contribute, serving and caring for each other. Furthermore, there is a place for everyone to serve! (1 Corinthians 12:12, Romans 12:10)

DISCUSSION

- How did Jesus model servanthood in his ministry?
- How can we imitate the type of servanthood that Jesus modeled?
- What makes *servanthood* (as opposed to *service*) intimidating or challenging? What does it really imply for our lives?
- Why should the Christ-follower serve? Which portions of the Bible inform your answer to that question?
- How should the Christ-follower serve?
- What's required for service to become second nature in us? In other words, how do you commit service to “muscle memory” or make it your “default”?
- How is God asking you to be more servant-hearted? What will you do in response to these biblical texts and the corresponding sermon?
- What are some ways in which you can serve the church and the city?

CHALLENGE

- Rather than merely planning opportunities to serve, submit to Christ in servanthood and allow the Holy Spirit to guide you in servant-hearted living.
- Share how God guides you into service this week with another member of the group.

PLAN AHEAD

- Try to track your own utilization of these disciplines in a journal, spreadsheet, blog, etc. This will help you reflect on and distinguish between each as we begin to add even more!