

Life Group Guide “Servanthood”

March 12-18, 2017

Prep:

Please make sure to review the material in the guide so you are prepared for the conversation in your Life Group.

Welcome:

Take a few minutes to reconnect with your group.

Video:

Show the video. It is about 3 minutes long. It will set up the conversation on servanthood

Scripture:

Matthew 20:20-28

20 Then the mother of Zebedee’s sons came to Jesus with her sons and, kneeling down, asked a favor of him. **21** “What is it you want?” he asked.

She said, “Grant that one of these two sons of mine may sit at your right and the other at your left in your kingdom.” **22** “You don’t know what you are asking,” Jesus said to them. “Can you drink the cup I am going to drink?” “We can,” they answered.

23 Jesus said to them, “You will indeed drink from my cup, but to sit at my right or left is not for me to grant. These places belong to those for whom they have been prepared by my Father.” **24** When the ten heard about this, they were indignant with the two brothers. **25** Jesus called them together and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. **26** Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, **27** and whoever wants to be first must be your slave— **28** just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

Phillipians 2:5-11

5 In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:

6 Who, being in very nature[a] God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; **7** rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. **8** And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death— even death on a cross!

9 Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, **10** that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, **11** and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Reflection/Vision Statement Time

- We recommend taking about 4-5 minutes for people to reflect after the passage. But before you do, say something like:
 - “I encourage you to first take a couple minutes to reflect on this passage and the video, come up with any questions, connections, or what the passage says to you tonight.” Draw people’s attention to the concept of servanthood, and *what defines an excellent and successful servant*. Encourage your group to really read into the richness of the passage and to build their answers off of the content.

Questions for Discussion:

(Choose your favorites ahead of time that you think will benefit your group the most)

Observation: Most people have had experience with the concept of servanthood in their lives, whether through a job, a church, or a family value. People have had many different experiences with servanthood—some have been positive and fruitful, and others have left a bitter taste in their mouth

Question: When you think of the word servant, what is your *honest* first reaction. Is that a positive thing? Is it something you appreciate in others, but would not want to be described as yourself?

Question: Who is the most service-minded person you have ever met? What specific qualities defined them as a great servant?

Question: What are some of the qualities of a servant who follows in the footsteps of Christ (See Phillipians 2)?

Question: How do the traits that God values in those he considers great differ from the traits that our culture would consider great?

Observation: Serving may make us great in the eyes of the Kingdom, but sometimes in the eyes of the world it makes us held in lower esteem. There are benefits to pursuing greatness in the eyes of the world- resources, reputation, and affirmation. However, Jesus strongly declares that the benefit of pursuing **kingdom** greatness is more worthwhile.

Question: What are the *benefits* of living a life of servanthood? Why are they better than the benefits of pursuing greatness in the eyes of the world?

Observation: Mark 20 tells us that Jesus did not come to be served, but to serve, and give His life as a ransom for many. He was equipped to heal, set people free from their shame and fears, and reveal to people the kind, just and graceful heart of God- and that is just what he did. He walked perfectly within his gifting, and that made him more *fruitful* in his servanthood.

Observation: There is endless need in this world. There are so many things that we *could* give our gift of servanthood to. However, that doesn't mean we *should* give that gift to all things! God has designed us with unique spiritual and physical gifts that meet very *specific* need. We are happiest, most filled with purpose, and most *effective* when we serve in the sweet spot of the need we have been gifted to meet.

Question: What is a time that you felt like you were able to serve someone else really well? What specific gifts in you did that situation require you to call on?

Observation: While we are called to serve within our sweet spot, that doesn't mean that serving is always easy. Jesus lived in perfect cooperation with the will of God, and he was ultimately called to serve by laying down his life.

Question: What does it look like for you personally to sacrifice as a servant? How does this challenge you?

Observation: While God has called us to a lifestyle of serving, there is a greater purpose behind our investment and sacrifice. What does Mark 20 say that this purpose is (**HINT: "a ransom for many"**)

Prayer:

(LIFE GROUP LEADERS): Use this time as an on-ramp for people to the opportunity to use their gifts and serve at Calvary. Let them know that you will be giving out serve guides at the end of group. Pray over those who may not have a clear idea of *what* their gifts are, and for those who are looking to make a greater impact with what they have already been given.