

**Lesson Title:** Service

Key Concept: We are motivated to pursue our mission of ALL making disciples of ALL by our core values. They are our why. This lesson examines Service as demonstrated by our love for God and neighbor through intentional care, giving, and hospitality for ALL.

**Scriptures:**

For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many.

(Mark 10:45 *New Living Translation*)

Verily, verily, I say unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord....

(John 13:16a *King James Version*)

Context Scriptures: John 6:38, Luke 19:10, John 13:16, Acts 20:35

**Lesson Thoughts:**

The most powerful being who has ever existed, and who ever will, came to us to demonstrate the meaning of true love. His love was humble, selfless, and potent. We did not deserve it. Jesus came to be in service to those he created (Mark 10:45). Why would he do that? What was his purpose? Jesus came from heaven to do the will of God who sent him (John 6:38), which was to seek and to save those who are lost (Luke 19:10). His service was the vehicle for his love.

The gospels are full of rich illustrations of Jesus' acts of service. These acts include feeding the hungry, healing the sick, washing the feet of the disciples, and spending time with the marginalized and excluded. In serving, he endured weariness, hunger, and even rejection, but he never wavered because his *why* was clear. It wasn't about him or what he would gain; it was about others. He gave himself for us.

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As disciples of Jesus, we are called to follow in his footsteps. What big shoes we have to fill! Serving (or put differently, *giving*) is not our strong suit. Overall, we are a self-focused people who see service as an imposition on our time. We view service as an act of degradation instead of an act of generosity and love. Why should I serve? I don't have time! Somebody else will do it. I'm not doing that! These are the positions we take. As disciples of Jesus, however, we must remember that "A servant is not greater than his master" (John 13:16) and our master came to serve. So, we too must do the will of the father. When both why we serve and who we serve are clear, service becomes a priority and a privilege. We serve others because we serve the King. We understand that through our service the love of God is demonstrated to others.

The scriptures clearly say that it is more blessed to give than to receive (Acts 20:35). Just as giving of our finances frees us from the grip of greed, giving of our time and talents frees us from the grip of selfishness and self-interest. What does my neighbor need? What does the body of Christ need? How can *I* help? Lord, what would you have *me* to do? When we look after the needs of others and find our place(s) of service within the body, we are blessed! Service is our vehicle to demonstrate our love for God and neighbor.

**Discussion Questions:**

- 1) Why do you think Service was chosen as one of our core values?
- 2) What is the greatest commandment (Matthew 22:35–40, Mark 12:28–31, Luke 10:25–37) and what does it have to do with service?
- 3) When you consider how deliberate Jesus was in his care for people, how can you be more intentional in your care for people?
- 4) What does it mean to be hospitable? Why is hospitality important?
- 5) Think about how good it feels to receive. What do you feel when you give? Which feels better?

Next Lesson: Community

Notes and Reflections

- 1) Take the time to understand why Jesus calls us to serve. Does that understanding motivate you to action?
- 2) If you are not serving in the church, analyze your reasons and compare them to the example of Jesus. Are your reasons valid?
- 3) Think about how you spend your non-working time. How can you make room to serve?
- 4) Commit to serving in the church at least once a week!

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Notes and Reflections, cont.