

Small Group Discussion Guide

For the week of July 31 - August 6, 2022

Main Thought and Scriptures:

(Break into groups of 3-5 to discuss. 50 minutes)

God desires for us to make a difference in the world. We do this by sharing the Gospel and demonstrating God's love by serving others right where we are. As God works in us and through us, our purpose becomes clearer and our lives are filled with meaning. Making a difference by serving others reminds us how much God loves this world and the people in it.

"Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going back to God, ⁴rose from supper. He laid aside his outer garments, and taking a towel, tied it around his waist. ⁵Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was wrapped around him. ⁶He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, 'Lord, do you wash my feet?' ⁷Jesus answered him, 'What I am doing you do not understand now, but afterward you will understand.' ⁸Peter said to him, 'You shall never wash my feet.' Jesus answered him, 'If I do not wash you, you have no share with me. ¹²...Do you understand what I have done to you? ¹³You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am... ¹⁵For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you. ¹⁶Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. ¹⁷If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.'" (John 13:3-8, 12-13, 15-17 ESV)

Seasons come when God calls us to let go of something good so we can grab onto something great. (v. 4-5)

- Jesus left His full divinity in heaven to become our Savior on earth. Having been fully God, He also became fully man to purchase our redemption.
- In this text, He was about to lay His life aside to finish His assignment and return to His Father in heaven.
- Life consists of seasons that call for us to let go of one assignment to fulfill another. We must let go of something familiar in order to grasp onto something greater.

Jesus' call to serve is also our assignment to own. (v. 12, 15)

- Before He went to the cross, Jesus dramatically imparted a mandate to serve others. He did not leverage His divine identity for special privilege but identified humbly with humanity. Washing the feet of others was the humblest of tasks given to the lowliest of household servants.
- Taking the simplest steps to serve others can make the greatest difference in their lives. Oftentimes, God watches to see what we do for others before He does something for us.

The promise of blessing follows the activation of serving. (v. 16-17)

- Jesus changed eternal destinies because He laid his life down as a humble servant. He was countering the entitled, self-serving culture of that day, similar to what we have today.
- Jesus made it clear: we too are called to make an eternal difference by serving selflessly in our own unique ways. He attributes blessing, prominence and greatness to those who would embody the spirit of serving.

Discussion Questions:

(Select those that best apply)

- Share what God is speaking to you most from the main thought and scriptures.
- Share about a time when you experienced God's love through someone selflessly serving you. How did that make a difference in your life and faith?
- Where is God calling you to have a servant's heart at (home, work, church, etc.)? How could you practically serve there and who are the specific people that God's love could impact as you exemplify Jesus' heart for serving?

Prayer:

(Partner up and pray with one another. 10 minutes)

- Pray for one another to have a servant's heart at the location they shared about during the discussion.
- Pray for the salvation of those God has called us to love and serve right where we are.