

PATHWAYS

Week 6 | Servanthood

Big Idea: Jesus came to serve, so we serve.

Matthew 20:28

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

1 John 2:6

⁶ whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.

John 13:1-20

- We follow the example of Jesus.
- We remember our identity is in Jesus.
- We strive for humility like Jesus.
- We empty ourselves like Jesus.

INDIVIDUAL EXERCISES

Exercise 1 – The Good Samaritan

One day an expert in religious law stood up to test Jesus by asking him this question: “Teacher, what should I do to inherit eternal life?” Jesus replied, “What does the law of Moses say? How do you read it?” The man answered, “‘You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your strength, and all your mind.’ And, ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’” “Right!” Jesus told him. “Do this and you will live!” The man wanted to justify his actions, so he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?” Jesus replied with a story: “A Jewish man was traveling from Jerusalem down to Jericho, and he was attacked by bandits. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him up, and left him half dead beside the road. “By chance a priest came along. But when he saw the man lying there, he crossed to the other side of the road and passed him by. A Temple assistant walked over and looked at him lying there, but he also passed by on the other side. “Then a despised Samaritan came along, and when he saw the man, he felt compassion for him. Going over to him, the Samaritan soothed his wounds with olive oil and wine and bandaged them. Then he put the man on his own donkey and took him to an inn, where he took care of him. The next day he handed the innkeeper two silver coins, telling him, ‘Take care of this man. If his bill runs higher than this, I’ll pay you the next time I’m here.’ “Now which of these three would you say was a neighbor to the man who was attacked by bandits?” Jesus asked. The man replied, “The one who showed him mercy.” Then Jesus said, “Yes, now go and do the same.” - Luke 10:25-37

Slowly read the story of the Good Samaritan found in **Luke 10:25-37**. Become quiet and ask God to open your heart to listen and hear His message to you through this story. Read the passage again imagining you are the Levite in the story.

What are your concerns? Why are you in a hurry? Now read it again and put yourself in the place of the priest. What are your concerns? What might the reasons be for you to pass by? This next time, read the passage as though you are the Samaritan. Imagine: Why do you stop to help? How do you feel about incurring all the expenses for another’s care?

Finally, imagine yourself as the person in need. How do you feel as people pass by without helping you? Imagine what you feel when the Samaritan stops to help. What might your feelings be when the Samaritan both helps you and pays for your care?

Ask God to help you answer: Who of these characters do I tend to be like most days? How can I grow in seeing the needs of others and taking action to meet them? How can I grow in receiving the service of others? Be silent and listen for God to speak. Close your prayer with thanksgiving for Jesus’ teaching on caring for our neighbors.

Exercise 2 - Serving in Secret

Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven. Thus, when you give to the needy, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by others. Truly, I say to you,

they have received their reward. But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. - **Matthew 6:1-4**

We often truly desire to serve out of humility, but, at the same time, find ourselves hoping to be seen and noticed when we serve. Is this a struggle for you? Why particularly do you want to be noticed when you give or serve?

This week, plan to serve, give, or donate in some way that is completely anonymous. As best you can, tell no one what you are doing. Pray and ask God to reveal a need that you can help meet and figure out a way to keep it secret. Ask God to help you follow through with this. How might this practice address an addiction to approval and image management?

How does a correct view of God and your worth to Him change your desire to be seen by others?

MISSIONAL COMMUNITY

Pray

As you begin, pray with your group. Pray that this discussion would help build a culture of service in our church. Pray that your group would not serve out of guilt, compulsion, or a desire to be noticed, but out of joy, humility, and thankfulness.

Discuss this passage and the following questions:

So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. - Philippians 2:1-11

Discuss the following themes from Philippians 2:

Humility - purposefully thinking of others before we think of ourselves, and considering them more important

- How did Jesus model humility in His time on earth?
- In what ways do we resist modeling humility like Jesus did?
- What does it mean to “count others as more significant than ourselves”?

Emptying - Not looking to use what we have as an advantage over others (just as Jesus did not use His divine nature as an advantage over His human one)

- What are some things that we use to give ourselves an advantage over others?
- What does emptying ourselves look like in our culture?

Secrecy - Giving and serving anonymously--without looking to be noticed or rewarded

- What are some reasons we want our service to others to be noticed?
- What do we want people to know or notice about us when we serve?
- How does this reveal our insecurities?

At The Bridge

1. Why do you think people serve one another at The Bridge?
2. How is that important?
3. IF you have served in the past or present; How does it help you
 - a. Be with Jesus (abide)
 - b. Become like Jesus (discipleship)
 - c. Do what Jesus did (mission)