



The Week of January 3, 2021
iServe
Conversation Guide

Intro Questions

- Think of a time when someone served you or your family in an amazing way and share it with the group.
- The term “servant leader” is used often. How can such a paradoxical statement be a true expression of the Christian view of leadership?
- How does this study of serving follow naturally after last week’s message on submitting?

iServe Because I Believe In God

- Read 1 Peter 3:18-21

For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive in the Spirit. After being made alive, he went and made proclamation to the imprisoned spirits—to those who were disobedient long ago when God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In it only a few people, eight in all, were saved through water, and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also—not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a clear conscience toward God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at God’s right hand—with angels, authorities and powers in submission to him.

- How did Noah’s belief in God make him a part of the saving of the human race (and all creatures)?
- How does your belief in God and His plan give you a passion for serving others?
- In Mark 10:45 it said of Jesus, “For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” How did Jesus serve humanity and how do we carry on the mission?

iServe Becuase God Has Gifted And Empowered Me To Do So

- Read 1 Peter 4:7-11

The end of all things is near. Therefore be alert and of sober mind so that you may pray. Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling.

Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.

If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ.

To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.

- What is the motivation for service from these verses?
- What is the source to serve others?
- What is the attitude in serving that is needed?
- If we do it by God's power and authority, what is the result of serving?

iServe To Receive The Reward

- Read 1 Peter 5:1-4

To the elders among you, I appeal as a fellow elder and a witness of Christ's sufferings who also will share in the glory to be revealed: Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, watching over them—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve; not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock.

And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away.

- Although this is addressed to leaders, the same principles apply to all believers. What are some principles that apply in your situation?
- Should a Christian desire a reward ("crown of glory")? Why or why not?

iServe To Fight The Enemy

- Read 1 Peter 5:8-11

Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings.

And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast.

To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen.

- How can serving be an offensive move against the kingdom of this world (our own selfish desires, society and Satan)?
- Pastor Tommy mentioned how social media (good and bad) can distract us from God's work in serving others. What successes and failures have you experienced?
- The way things are trending, 2021 we will see more restrictions on religious liberty and persecution for what we believe, say or do. What should be our attitude and actions in the face of suffering and persecution?
- How can we serve the "family of believers throughout the whole world" who are suffering or dying for their faith?

Next Steps

- Beliefs that lead to attitudes and actions:
 - I serve to honor God.
 - I serve because Christ gave His all to serve me and He is my example in serving others. Check out how to serve at Celebration: <https://icelebration.org/volunteer>
 - I serve because we are in spiritual battle and I have to resist the kingdom of this world.
 - I serve because God gifted and empowered me to do so. Have you taken the Spiritual Gifts Discovery yet? <https://gifts.churchgrowth.org/spiritual-gifts-survey/501577/?id=501577>
 - I serve because His reward is waiting for me.

Close with a prayer for God to use each in serving God and others.