

LifeGroup Discussion guide

Jan. 10th sermon

Sermon Summary- George challenged us to spend time serving. He talked about who should be serving, how they should serve, where they can serve and why we serve. The bottom line is that Jesus set an example for us to follow and if our heart is truly full of Jesus- our hands, feet, eyes, ears, backs and every part of our body will be serving.

Scripture Reference:

Mark 9:35

Specific Discussion Questions

- 1) Do you find it easy or hard to serve? Why?
- 2) Tell about a time when you were serving and ended up being blessed more than you expected.
- 3) Tell about a ministry that you have served in and would like to serve in again.
- 4) Do you have any ideas for ways our entire LifeGroup could serve together on a regular basis?

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LifeGroup Leader Notes

Are you ready to go out and serve?

Sermon synopsis: Pray & Serve

Last week George introduced us to the main theme for 2010 - *It's About Time*. He talked about spending time with God and allowing God to *send* us. Today George focused on taking time in prayer to understand where and how God desires to send us to serve others. The foundation of serving is following Jesus in His example of being a servant to all. George illustrated that Jesus is the foundation of servanthood. Imagine the pyramid of people. Now imagine it turned upside down with Jesus as the cornerstone – holding up the entire structure. Jesus says He will take the bottom and be servant of all. **So who serves?** Jesus leads and we follow. Paul, Peter, elders, deacons, everyone – we all are called to be servants and actually slaves (Matt 20:26-28). **So how do we serve?** 4 ways: (1) Discover and use God's gifts given to glorify Him in us. (2) Serve more excellent at church than at work [whole-heartedly]. (3) Serve in love [Gal 5:13]. (4) Serve in Spirit [Rom 7:6]. **So whom do we serve?** Serve all – the thirsty, hungry, needy, brokenhearted, stranger, etc. Matt 9:35; 10:42. **So where can we serve?** KARM, Restoration House, Compassion, Hillcrest, Summit View, AIDS, Souper Bowl Sunday, CAFÉ, Furniture, Mobile Meals, prison, clothing, 10:30 nurse, Communion preparation, Get 'R Done. **Why do we serve?** Rom 5:5 – His love is in our heart. If we are not serving, we have a heart problem and either need a bypass or a transplant. With the servant's heart comes the servant's – feet, knees, hands, eyes, ears, back, voice – and they come tuned to serve.

Scripture reading:

Key Verse: Mark 9:35

1. Who serves – Mark 9:35; Phil 2:6; John 13:15
2. Who serves – Titus 1:1, Rom 16:1, Eph 6:21, James 1:1, Rev 1:1, elders, deacons (the word means servant)
3. Servants are slaves to others – Matt 20:26-28
4. How – I Pet 4:10, Rom 14:12, Gal 5:13, Rom 7:6, Matt 24:25
5. Whom – Matt 9:35, Matt 10:42
6. Why – Rom 5:5

More Discussion Options:

1. Finding our “how” to serve may be like a football team (1) try out and find the best position (2) participate as part of a team serving God –
 - *Where can your LifeGroup start?*
 - *What serving gifts and passions are in your group?*
 - *What has been a time when God was truly glorified through your service?*
2. We will be held accountable to use God's gift –
 - *Why would God hold us accountable to use our gifts?*
 - *Do you ever get tired of serving?*
 - *Does it ever seem like it's always “what else does someone have for me to do now?”*
3. Matt 24:25 says it's good if He finds us “doing” not “have done in the past” –
 - *Do you justify not serving now because you served in the past?*
 - *Do you justify not serving because you are busy, too young, too old?*
4. Rom 5:5 says we serve by having His love in our heart –
 - *When do you struggle the most with having God's love in your heart and serving others?*

Encouragement points:

- **Opportunities** – *WTCC has a lot of opportunities – talk to George or an elder and they can get you a contact and number*
- **Perfect Season** – *It doesn't have to be perfect. We don't always get it right straight out of the gate. God forgives and will work to help us progress.*