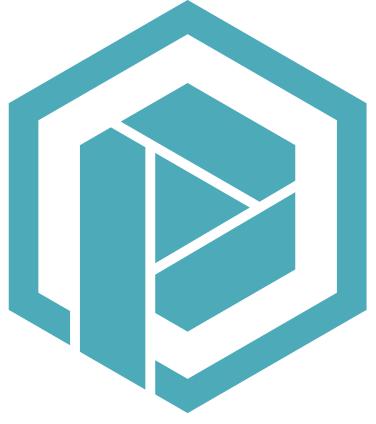
DISCIPLINES - SERVING

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### LIFEGROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE | WEEK 1

Main Point

We can be obedient to the Lord in our call to serve by following Christ's example.

Scriptures

Deuteronomy 10:12-13; Galatians 5:13-14; Acts 20:35; Mark 10:45; Philippians 2:5; 1 Corinthians 11:1; 1 Peter 5:1-4; Galatians 5:13; 1 Peter 4:10-11; Ephesians 4:11-13; Luke 22:27; Mark 1:40-45

Devotional Questions

- What are ways you can serve others in your daily life?
- Why is it important to be obedient to Christ's calling on our lives?
- Why should we follow Jesus' example?
- What are ways we can imitate Christ's service to others?
- Why is this heart posture important to have?
- Where can you serve?
- What is your spiritual gift?
- Where can you serve this week?
- What is the purpose of serving?
- How can you personally share the Gospel while serving?

#### Essential Doctrine

A spiritual discipline is a regularly repeated practice that enriches our attentiveness to the Holy Spirit and shows Jesus Christ through our lives. Many spiritual disciplines can help us follow God more closely, such as serving, an act of obedience to the Lord. To properly serve others, the Bible teaches us to have the right "heart posture" in serving. We are called to serve humbly in love just as Jesus did, and we are equipped by the Spirit to do so - by serving our communities and local churches, by sharing the Gospel, or just by being a good friend.



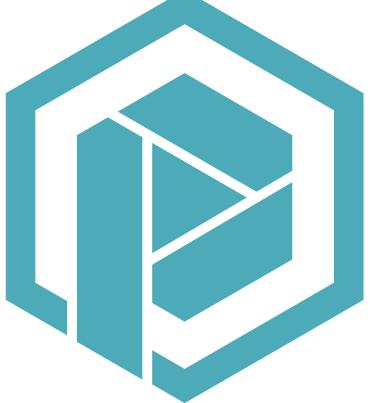
Matthew 20 tells us that Jesus did not come to earth to be served, but to serve, leading us to follow in Jesus' footsteps and do the same. Take time this week to examine where you can serve or how you have been serving. Pray for opportunities to serve and a willing heart posture to do so.



- Why do we follow Jesus' example?
- Why do we serve?
- How can we change our heart posture when it comes to service/serving?
- How are we equipped to serve?
- What are the ways you can serve daily?
- How can you use your spiritual gifts to serve?
- How can you share your faith while serving this week?

DISCIPLINES - EVANGELISM





Main Point

Evangelism is necessary and important for all believers.

Scriptures

Matthew 4:12-17; Acts 4:23-31; Acts 10:34-43; Ephesians 2:1-3; Galatians 2:3-4; Acts 4:23-31; Luke 12:8-12

Devotional Questions

- What do you think Jesus meant in Matthew 4:17 when He said, "... for the kingdom of heaven is at hand"?
- What does it mean to truly repent?
- If you are in front of people who are hostile to your faith in Christ, what should you do?
- What was the apostles' comfort during a time of suffering and tribulation (Acts 4:23-31)?
- What is the first thing you run to for comfort in your life?
- How do you think the Gentiles responded to this message from Peter (Acts 10:34-43)?
- Do your thoughts about your reputation reflect Peter's thoughts about his?
- Reread Ephesians 2:1-3. How does Paul characterize a life that is dead in sin?
- Whom is God putting on your heart to reconcile with because of the unifying power of the Gospel?
- Read Galatians 2:3-4. In what way were the Jews forcing their traditions on the Gentiles?
- By requiring the Gentiles to act like Jews, how were the false teachers distorting the Gospel?



The Gospel can bring a person from death to life. God desires us to share the Gospel so that all can be saved and have unity through the blood of Jesus.



In His humanity, Jesus gave Himself up through humility and humiliation to give us freedom. We are now free from eternal separation from God. When we choose to follow Jesus, we begin to change and look more like Jesus through the power of the Holy Spirit. Our own transformation from the Gospel produces an overflow. This overflow and love for God propels us to share Christ's life, death and Resurrection.

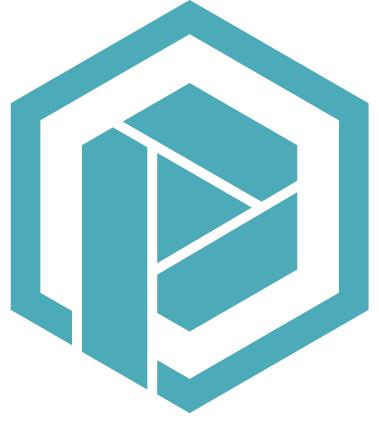


- When was the last time you helped someone find freedom in Christ?
- What are creative ways you can share your faith at school/sports?
- Do you tend to rely on your obedience for right standing with God? In what ways?
- In what ways can you strengthen believers around you who struggle with self-reliance?
- What makes you hesitant to allow God to use you?
- How will you allow God to use you to glorify His name?
- Can you tell a distinct difference when you don't spend time with Christ?
- Do you utilize prayer in all circumstances of your life?
- What are some of your fears in sharing the Gospel?
- What can you do to overcome those fears?

#### DISCIPLINES - GIVING/STEWARDSHIP

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All we have comes from God.



Matthew 19:16-24; Luke 12:13-21; Mark 12:41-44; Luke 12:22-34; 1 Timothy 6:3-10



Why is giving considered a spiritual discipline? Giving our money to God teaches us to trust Him and reminds us that everything belongs to Him and not us. These earthly things mean nothing compared to the joy of knowing Jesus and the eternal rewards awaiting us in heaven.

Jesus warns us of the dangers of putting our trust in wealth and being anxious about earthly things (Matthew 19:16–24; Luke 12:13–34). We tend to forget that God will provide for us. Watch out for false teachers who say that God blesses you financially when you have enough faith. We are blessed to bless others. It's not about us, and it's not about money. It's about trusting God.

Finally, we often think that the bigger the gift, the more valuable it is. When people donate a great deal of money to the church, we may think that their sacrifice is worth more. But the story of the woman who gave everything she had shows that God values a gift based on the heart attitude of the person who gives (Mark 12:41-44). What matters is *why* you're giving and not *how much you're giving*.



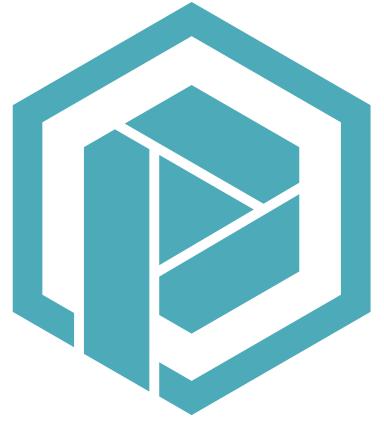
We must change the way we think about all our stuff and money. It's not ours! It's God's! How can we use what we have been given to bless others? How can we start trusting God with everything we have and everything we need? Challenge yourself this week to give generously.



- How does today's reading help us see the relationship between divine providence and human responsibility?
- How can you remember that God is for you despite the challenges you face in life?
- Why can we trust God even through difficult circumstances?
- How does belief in the Resurrection give you courage in fearful situations?
- Which fears hold you back from testifying about Jesus as Paul did?
- What would you attempt for God if you knew He was with you?

**DISCIPLINES - WORSHIP** 

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Main Point



Scriptures

Romans 1:18-20; 1 Chronicles 16:23-31; Job 38; Luke 4:1-12; Psalm 67:3; 149:3; 144:9; 56:11-12; 72:11-15; 22:3; 145:4; Proverbs 9:10; Acts 1:8

Devotional Questions

- What have you worshipped most this week?
- How does understanding more about God inspire further worship of Him?
- What steps do you have in place to fight the temptation to worship things other than God?
- How have the Hebrew words for worship changed your view of worship?
- How can you be bold in worship today?

Essential Doctrine Worship is the act of giving honor and praise to someone or something. We are designed to give praise and honor to God, but the plan of Satan is to distract us with the things of this world and lure us into worshipping creation rather than the Creator. We worship God for two reasons – what He has made and what He has done. He is worthy of our praise which includes our time, talent and treasures.



The death, burial and Resurrection of Christ provides us the means and the reason to worship God. Worship is a direct response to salvation. Therefore, Christ is our means and motivation to give God praise.

### In Defense

While worship can be an emotional experience for many of us, it is not driven by our emotions or our circumstances. It is driven by the truth of who God is. God is immutable – never changing – therefore, whatever the setting, we should give God honor and praise.



- What is worship?
- Why do we worship?
- How has your view of worship been affected by our lesson today?
- Have you ever been tempted to view worship as only music or song?
- Looking at how you use your time, talent and treasure, what are you tempted to worship instead of God?
- What is the best way you personally worship?
- What steps will you take to realign your worship back to God this week?