



14 ...You're here to be light, bringing out the God-colors in the world. God is not a secret to be kept. We're going public with this, as public as a city on a hill. 15 If I make you light-bearers, you don't think I'm going to hide you under a bucket, do you? I'm putting you on a light stand. 16 Now that I've put you there on a hilltop, on a light stand—shine! Keep open house; be generous with your lives. By opening up to others, you'll prompt people to open up with God, this generous Father in heaven. Matthew 5:14-16 (MSG)

The world doesn't see God if we're not the light.

- Light shines best in the darkness.

What makes our love stand out:

- In a selfish world, we demonstrate a selfless love.

- Compassion is the action of loving people.

12...as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion... Colossians 3:12 (NIV)

You are set apart for a compassionate life that looks like God.

1 It was just before the Passover Feast. Jesus knew that the time had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he now showed them the full extent of his love... John 13:1

14 Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet.

15 I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. John 13:14-15 (NIV)

- Those who follow Jesus will be servants.

The lesson:

- If we don't learn to serve in insignificant ways, ways that nobody else wants to, we'll never learn how to serve with the right heart.

26 ...Whoever wants to be great must become a servant.

27 Whoever wants to be first among you must be your slave.

28 That is what the Son of Man has done: He came to serve, not to be served—and then to give away his life in exchange for the many who are held hostage." Matthew 20:26-28 (MSG)

- A servant serves not for self-recognition but for the pleasure of the one they serve.

- We serve God in serving others.

35 For I was hungry, and you fed me. I was thirsty, and you gave me a drink. I was a stranger, and you invited me into your home. 36 I was naked, and you gave me clothing. I was sick, and you cared for me. I was in prison, and you visited me.' 37 "Then these righteous ones will reply, 'Lord, when did we ever see you hungry and feed you? Or thirsty and give you something to drink? 38 Or a stranger and show you hospitality? Or naked and give you clothing? 39 When did we ever see you sick or in prison and visit you?' 40 ...'I tell you the

truth, when you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were doing it to me!' Matthew 25:35-40 (NLT)

- The heart of a servant looks for Jesus in everyone they serve.

The Priorities of a servant's heart:

- A servant is focused on the needs of others.

- A servant puts service over status.

3 Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, 4 not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. Philippians 2:3-4 (NIV)

- A servant puts caring over convenience.

1 Those of us who are strong and able in the faith need to step in and lend a hand to those who falter, and not just do what is most convenient for us. Strength is for service, not status. 2 Each one of us needs to look after the good of the people around us, asking ourselves, "How can I help?" 3 That's exactly what Jesus did. He didn't make it easy for himself by avoiding people's troubles, but waded right in and helped out....Romans 15:1-3 (MSG)

- A servant puts we over me.

44 And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had.

45 They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need. Acts 2:44-45 (NLT)

Evidence of a Servant's Heart:

Willing to do what seems insignificant.

Willing to see people through a lens of grace and mercy.

Willing to get dirty and uncomfortable to make a difference.

You're never more like Jesus than when you serve others.

1 Corinthians 9:20-23 (MSG)



TO CREATIVELY LOVE AND LEAD PEOPLE IN A GROWING RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS.

Questions for Connection Groups:

These questions also work well for personal time with God.

- What scripture and/or point spoke most to you from the Talk on Sunday? Why?
- Have you ever had to do a job that no one wanted (or was willing) to do? Tell about it. Have you ever chosen to do a job that no one wanted to do? Explain. Talk about some of the bad attitudes that rise to the surface, attitudes that God forces us to deal with? Why is it important to deal with these attitudes?
- Why is self-recognition not acceptable in serving God?
- Dave shared about his struggle with the homeless, and how God is using them to change his heart. Is there a group or a person that God is using to change your heart? Tell about it.
- Do you look for Jesus in everyone you serve? What does that mean? (read Matthew 25:35-40)
- How do you focus on the needs of others?
- How do you put serving about status? Is there any job that is beneath you?
- How do you put caring over convenience?
- How does your serving make "us" more important than yourself?
- What are the evidences of a servant's heart in you?
- When it comes to serving others, what is God saying to you?

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