

BIBLE TEACHING AND WORSHIP GUIDE



FOR THE HOME-BASED CHURCH

Produced Weekly

The Discipline of Serving
John 13:3-17; 1 John 3:16-18

Copy this sheet for the Gathering Time, Bible Study, and Worship Experience leaders for the next meeting of the church.

Leaders' Responsibilities:

Important: Each person who will be leading one of the three parts of a session during a Unit of sessions needs to have access to the "Basic Information for Leading the Unit of Study". That information is often provided at the beginning of that Unit of sessions. The weekly session "Background" located in the Teacher Preparation is much more specific to that day's study.

1. **The Gathering Time Leader** will gather all of the people together and help them prepare their minds and hearts for a wonderful worship experience before God. His/her responsibility is to introduce the congregation to the theme (content) and the Scripture that will be central to their worship experience for the day.

2. **The Bible Study Leader** will then help the people understand what the Scriptures have to say and teach us about the content of the study for the day. He/she will guide the people to make a general application of the study (ie: How does this Bible study apply to people today?)

3. **The Worship Time Leader** has the responsibility to use the theme and Scriptures to guide the congregation to make personal commitments to God's will for each one in regard to the study for the day. He/she will use others to lead in the music, taking the offering, ministry moment comments, and other activities and parts of the **Worship Time** that can aid in participatory worship.

Prior to this Coming Session:

Gathering Time Leader:

1. Prepare words for any music with which the worshippers may not be familiar.
2. Make copies of the sheet found at the end of this session. Prepare enough slips of paper for each person who attends. Or, write the following statement "The nicest thing anyone (other than Jesus) has done for me was to _____." on slips of paper. (Remember that preschoolers may not be old enough to participate in some activities—but they like to have the paper and a crayon anyway. It helps them feel included. Actually, the older preschoolers could easily understand the idea and

draw a picture of someone who helped them get dressed, eat, take them to church, or other things.)

Worship Time Leader:

1. Ask someone to prepare a testimony on the life of a person close to him/her (father, mother, teacher, friend, etc.) who demonstrated service to them in a memorable way in the name of Christ.

2. Servant Project. Ask a person to find a local ministry or nursing home that would benefit from the service of the congregation. Coordinate a service project (or a service relationship) with that local ministry. Announce avenues for service at the conclusion of the worship time.

Music Sources:

Note to Leaders: “Light the Fire Again” would serve as a great theme song for the unit on disciplines.

“Light the Fire Again” Words and music by Brian Doerksen. Mercy Me/Vinyard Publishing, 1994. From the song “... I need Your Discipline ...” From WOW Worship Songbook. Integrity, Inc., 2000.

“Footsteps of Jesus” Words by Mary B.C. Slade. Music by Asa B. Everett. Public Domain.

“Lord I Want To Be A Christian” Negro Spiritual. Public Domain.

“Above All” Words and Music by Lenny LeBlanc and Paul Baloche. LenSongs Publishing, 1999. From WOW Worship Songbook. Integrity, Inc., 2000.

“Make Me a Servant” Words and music by Kelly Willard. Maranatha! Music, 1983. From Maranatha! Music Praise Chorus Book, (Purple). Maranatha! Music, 1990.

Gathering Time: (Suggested time: 15 minutes)***The Discipline of Serving******Focal Text***

John 13:3-17; 1 John 3:16-18

Background Text

John 13:1-17; 1 John 3:16-18

Main Idea

Serving others is a characteristic of genuine Christian living.

Questions to Explore

Is serving other people just an option for a Christian?

Teaching Aim

To lead the group to decide on ways they will express the Christian attitude of service.

Gathering together:

As people arrive, you can set the mood by softly playing some Christian music.

Assign one person to greet people as they arrive. The greeter should give each person a slip of paper with the following statement "The nicest thing anyone (other than Jesus) has done for me is (was) _____."

Sing "Make Me A Servant" or other song on the theme of servanthood.

If you have newcomers who may not know each other or some of the members of your church, have each person (including members) introduce himself/herself by saying his/her name clearly and then answering the question on the slip of paper.

First thoughts:

In the midst of a question about leadership, anger surfaced. Ambition can destroy relationships. The mother of two of the disciples had approached Jesus seeking a

position of power and prestige for her two boys. When the others heard about it they became indignant. Jesus took the opportunity to teach an important lesson.

Jesus called them together and said, ***“You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave—just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many”*** (Matthew 20:26-28).

The kingdom of God is not like the world. Our life with each other is based upon service not position. Jesus has set the example for each of us. He chose not to hold on to the position or title but came to serve mankind. Our role is not to exercise authority but rather to serve those we are to lead. This great reversal is to be the pattern for the church family.

Today, we want to learn how to serve others.

Leader: Take a moment to “brainstorm” among the congregation regarding some needs in the community that the group could impact by serving.

Closing the Gathering Time:

Pray for the group to incorporate the servant spirit of Jesus in our daily lives. Pray for the time of Bible study, the leaders and the needs (just mentioned) in the community, and the group.

Take time at this point to mention items of prayer concern for the church, announcements of ministry or activities, and anything else that needs to be shared with or by the congregation. Pray for these needs. Remember to praise God in prayer.

Break time! Take five minutes between sessions. Encourage children to use the washroom so that they won't need to leave during the Bible Study time.

Distribute youth/adult Bible study outlines or paper for note taking, if available.

Also hand out the activity sheets for preschool and younger children to use during Bible Study and/or worship.

Note to the Bible Study Leader: Suggested teaching time for the Bible study should be about 35 minutes. Use the “Teacher Preparation” for your personal study during the week before the session. Use the “Bible Study Plan” for the actual session.

Teacher Preparation

The Discipline of Serving

Focal Text

John 13:3-17; 1 John 3:16-18

Background Text

John 13:1-17; 1 John 3:16-18

Main Idea

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Introduction to your personal study:

When I was a child at summer camp every camper had chores to do. Some chores were more fun than others. Picking up trash was not so bad because we were outside. Washing dishes was pretty fun because we could eat the leftovers. But I remember one task that nobody asked for and nobody wanted to do – cleaning the bathrooms. Scrubbing toilets, sinks, and showers were chores at the bottom of everybody's wish list. Somebody should be paid to do that -- certainly nobody would volunteer!

In our passage today, we see Jesus performing a job that nobody wanted to do. He washed his disciples' dirty feet, a task that only a servant would do. What was his point? That is the essence of being a Christian – serving others.

Background:

Please ask for and read the information contained in the “**Basic Information for Leading the Unit of Study**”, found at the beginning of this Unit. Whoever downloaded this session for you should have that material for you, as well.

Here is the setting: Jesus and his disciples had walked the several miles from Bethany to Jerusalem. The sandals on their feet did little to protect them from the mud, sand, and dust of the journey, and their feet were probably sweaty, dirty, and uncomfortable. A common courtesy of the day was for the host to provide someone to wash the guests' feet as they entered the house (cf. Luke 7:44). This was a menial task usually performed by a servant. No servant was present in the upper room, so one of the disciples would have to perform the task of foot washing. But no one was willing. The disciples had been arguing over which one was the greatest only moments before (Luke 22:24). Everything was ready in the upper room, including all they needed for foot washing: a pitcher with water, a washbasin, and a long linen towel. But no one moved toward the basin, because each one wanted to be the greatest. Among the thirteen people gathered there, one would betray Jesus shortly, one would deny even knowing Jesus, and the rest would desert him to die alone.

In this setting Jesus performed a symbolic act that displayed his entire life's mission and taught his disciples about the kind of attitude they should have.

Focusing on the Meaning:

John 13:3-5 Jesus was very aware of everything happening around him (John 13:1), so he was not a helpless victim. Instead, at every moment Jesus carried out exactly what his Father had planned (cf. John 2:4; 7:6-8; 12:23). "Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power" (13:3), that is, he had supreme authority and power. Jesus knew "that he had come from God and was returning to God" (13:3), he knew of his divine origin, his rightful glory, and the certainty of his victory. Knowing all of this, the Lord of the universe "got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him" (13:4-5). Jesus betrayed all sense of decorum by breaking a social standard. He dressed as a menial slave when he took off his outer clothing and wrapped a towel around his waist.

The verbs found in John's description (vv. 4-5, 12) are most instructive, for they tell the gist of Jesus' life and earthly ministry. "He rose," "he laid aside," "he took," "he wrapped," "he poured out," "he washed and wiped," "he put on," and "he reclined;" these verbs tell of how Jesus emptied himself for the sake of sinners. He rose from his throne in heaven, he laid aside his glorious position of esteem, he took on the nature of a servant, wrapped himself in humanity, he poured out his life on the cross, and washed and wiped sinners clean. After having washed them, once more he took on his divine prerogatives, and he sat down at the right hand of God. Paul described this self-emptying and exaltation of Jesus in this way:

⁵ ***"Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: ⁶Who, being in the very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, ⁷but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. ⁸And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death – even death on a cross! ⁹Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father".*** (Philippians 2:5-11)

John 13:6-9 Most of the disciples were embarrassed and remained silent, but the ever-impulsive Peter responded with his objection, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" Jesus responded to Peter's ignorance. Peter would understand the deeper meaning of this event after Jesus' death, resurrection, ascension, and the coming of the Holy Spirit. Peter objected again in the strongest of language, "No, you shall never wash my feet!" Peter was thinking only of what was socially fitting, and it was not right that a master wash his disciple's feet. Jesus pointed to the deeper meaning of the foot washing, "Unless I wash you, you have no part in me," in other words, "Peter, unless I cleanse you from your sins, you cannot be associated with me." By washing their feet, Jesus symbolized the humiliation he would soon demonstrate on the cross. If Peter would not allow Jesus to humble himself by dying for Peter's sins, then Peter could not have salvation. Peter then impulsively asked for a bath from Jesus!

John 13:10-11 Jesus referred to a common image of the Roman baths. People's feet would get dirty as they walked home from the bath. At home they would not need another bath but only for their feet to be washed again. People who first come to Jesus for salvation are cleansed of their sin by his once-for-all atoning death. Later on they will need individual sins washed away (cf. 1 John 1:9), but the initial cleansing can never be repeated. Jesus added, "And you are clean, but not every one of you." Peter and the other disciples were already spiritually clean, but Judas had never placed his faith in Jesus. Jesus washed Judas' feet (John 13:2) even though he knew Judas would betray him. Jesus loved the sinner to the uttermost (13:1). Judas' feet were washed, but he was not cleansed (6:63-64). Cleansing only comes when a person individually places faith in Jesus Christ (1:11-13).

John 13:12-17 Jesus then applied the lesson, "Do you understand what I have done for you?" Jesus acted out how he would humble himself unto death to provide spiritual cleansing for the believer. Now Jesus made a practical application that they should follow his example and humbly serve others (cf. Mark 10:35-45). Jesus never lost his right to be their "Teacher" and "Lord." As such, he deserved to be worshiped by the disciples. If the Lord of glory could humble himself to serve others, should they not also be willing?

Should foot washing be considered another "ordinance" such as baptism and the Lord's Supper? Should believers regularly practice literally washing one another's feet? Probably not. Jesus called this "an example" that they should follow. Neither the New

Testament nor early church history describes foot washing as a regular Christian practice, but examples of baptism and the Lord's Supper abound. Something that appears only once in Scripture is not usually considered a universal and lasting rite. Jesus set an example of servanthood that we should follow. Therefore, Christians should find ways to serve others humbly, whether that is with a basin and towel or through some other means of expression. If Jesus did not think it beneath his dignity to do menial service for his disciples, why should his disciples think it beneath their dignity to do whatever is necessary for others?

The disciples were concerned about earthly greatness, but Jesus taught that true blessing comes from humble service, "You will be blessed if you do them." This blessing is God's favour that will carry a person even through the difficulties of life (cf. Matthew 5:1-12). God blesses people who display his character of humility.

1 John 3:16-18 Love with Actions and Truth

1 John 3:16 The essence of love is self-sacrifice, the kind of sacrifice demonstrated supremely by Jesus Christ, "Jesus Christ laid down his life for us." Jesus chose to give up his own life (cf. John 10:11), and Christians should display this kind of love. Giving up one's most precious possession for others is the greatest expression of love. One's own life may be that most precious possession. We have an obligation to follow Christ's example (John 15:13).

1 John 3:17 Laying down one's life doesn't necessarily mean dying in one great heroic act. It simply means being ready to do anything it takes for others, no matter the cost. We give up our lives when we live them for others, not for ourselves. Sin is basically selfishness, but true love is self-sacrifice. Self-sacrifice is demonstrated in very practical ways. Christian love gives to those in need. Those who are unwilling to help show that God's character of love is not there. John described a very specific example: a person "sees his brother in need," and this person has the ability to help (has material possessions). God's love would never turn its back to the needs of a brother (cf. James 2:15-16).

1 John 3:18 Actions speak far louder than words. Genuine love ("in truth") will show itself through its deeds. Love is not merely saying kind things, but doing kind things. If we have the ability to help and we are unwilling to help, then our love is merely talk and is not a true love.

Your Goal as the Leader of this Bible Study

Jesus demonstrated by his selfless act of servanthood the kind of attitude all of his followers should have. The essence of sin is selfishness, but Jesus showed that true love and godliness means putting others before self. In no way did Jesus lose his rightful place as their Lord and master. Instead, as Lord and master he showed his true greatness by humbling himself to serve others. If he can do that, then so should we.

The attitude of being servant is imminently practical, shown not only in words, but also in concrete actions.

For Personal Reflection:

1. **What have I learned from this study?**

2. **What personal experience does this lesson bring to mind?**

3. **What is one action I will take this week to apply this Scripture passage to my life?**

Bible Study Plan (Suggested time: 35 minutes)

The Discipline of Serving

Regroup the church after the Gathering Time and break by singing a chorus that young children can relate to—or another praise chorus if your congregation does not have children. Children who go to their own Bible teaching session should stay with the group until after this song. Have the preschoolers and children accompany the hymn with rhythm sticks, maracas, bells, etc. Children who stay with their parents in the Youth/Adult study should have the material on worship as suggested in **The Children's Corner** at the beginning of this **Unit** of studies. (Ask your leader who downloads the studies for those suggestions).

Begin by helping the group locate the Focal Text in their Bibles. Also, share with them the Main Idea to be learned from the Scriptures, and the Questions to be Explored by the group.

Focal Text

John 13:3-17; 1 John 3:16-18

Background Text

John 13:1-17; 1 John 3:16-18

Main Idea

Serving others is a characteristic of genuine Christian living.

Questions to Explore

Is serving other people just an option for a Christian?

Teaching Aim

To lead the group to decide on ways they will express the Christian attitude of service.

Connect with Life:

Ask, "What is the one job in the world you would most hate to have? Why is that job so horrible? What kind of person would do that job?"

After a little bit of discussion, ask the question, "Would Jesus do that job? If Jesus would do the job, then do we have any choice but to follow? Is serving other people just an option for a Christian?"

Guide the Study:

Using the comments from the “**Teacher Preparation**”, present the background and setting of the passage in John 13.

Explain how foot washing was a task expected of a servant.

Have someone read John 13:3-5.

Explain how Jesus' action symbolized his life and earthly ministry.

Read Philippians 2:5-11 to the group and show how the attitude of Jesus should be our own.

Ask: "What was Jesus' attitude?" (Servanthood, humility, obedience to death)

Have someone read John 13:6-11.

Have the group listen to Peter's attitude presented in these verses. Ask: "What did Jesus mean by, 'Unless I wash you, you have no part with me'?" (Each person must allow Jesus to make him or her clean.)

Explain that Jesus washed Judas' feet, but Judas never allowed Jesus to cleanse his heart.

Lead the group to read John 13:12-17.

Ask: "Did Jesus become less of who he was in what he did, or was he still their Lord and master even while washing their feet?"

Ask: "Why then do we feel that some tasks are beneath us'?"

Guide a discussion based on the information in the study guide about whether Jesus expected believers literally to wash one another's feet.

Have someone read 1 John 3:16-18. Ask: "What kind of actions would demonstrate our love and humility towards others?"

Encourage Application:

If you have two or more youth, this is the time to give them the **Youth!!! Take Ten** page and allow them to go away from the adults and apply the lesson by and for themselves.

Ask the question: "Is there any job you would not be willing to do to help others? What would Jesus do?"

Take a five minute break to separate the Bible Study and Worship Time. Children may need to use the washroom again before worship.

Youth!!! Take Ten

Bible Study Application for Youth

You may wish to move away from the adults for the final five to ten minutes of the Bible study and help each other as youth to apply the lesson to your own needs.

The Discipline of Serving John 13:3-17; 1 John 3:16-18

A youth will lead the following activity and comments. No adults need to be present. If possible, teens should take turns in leading the application time.

Let's Put Actions to our Attitudes

Plan a youth activity of service to others. These suggestions exhibit Jesus' attitude of serving others:

You can rake leaves or wash windows for older people in the church or community.

You can play with younger children while a mother runs errands.

You can do your own home responsibilities without complaint or being asked.

List other possibilities:

Don't stop with good intentions. Set dates and go do it!!!

Worship Time (Suggested time: 30 minutes)***The Discipline of Serving***
John 13:3-17; 1 John 3:16-18**Beginning the Service:**

Sing (or play a recording) of “**Light the Fire Again**” as people sing-a-long and as latecomers gather for worship from Bible studies. You may wish to choose other music at your discretion.

Worship Leader: Worship is all about serving. Often we call the main gathering of worship each week a “worship service.” One reason is that worship is for the purpose of serving God by offering Him praise. One of the biblical words for worship, from which we get the word “liturgy,” literally means “service.” As we enter into a time of worship let us focus on worship as a means of serving God rather than only to inspire us. Let’s center the purpose of our praise on Christ.

Lead the group in singing “Above All” or “Lord I Want To Be A Christian”.

Worship Leader: Pray or enlist someone to pray that the offerings we gather would be used to serve others in the name of Christ. Pray also that the hearts of the worshippers would understand the important role of Christians as servants.

Offering:

Ask a child to gather the offering this week.

Praying for the World:

Mothers and fathers often devote a life to service for their families. Before the worship day, have someone prepare a testimony sharing how a mother or father served the family or others. The testimony may also be about a devoted teacher, Bible study teacher, a humble man or woman etc.

Lead the congregation to sing “Footsteps of Jesus”

Sharing Guide:

This sharing guide is written to assist the person who directs the worship time to reemphasize the teaching for the day and help guide the congregation to respond to God's call and will for their lives in regard to the scripture studied. The leader may choose to follow the guide closely. Or, he or she may wish to only use it to give direction and a concept for preparing an original message. The leader is free to choose other ways to communicate and share the concepts presented here.

Serving others demonstrates our relationship with Jesus Christ.

Text: John 13:3-17

Introduction:

In the closing verses of the passage we are studying today, we hear the words:

"Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them. ¹³"You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. ¹⁴Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, ***you also should wash one another's feet.***

¹⁵I have set you an example that ***you should do as I have done for you.*** ¹⁶I tell you the truth, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. ¹⁷Now that you know these things you will be blessed if you do them.

Jesus is challenging His disciples to follow His example in service. Notice that the phrases used prior to this command point to their relationship with Jesus. The titles that are used are Teacher and Lord. He was their mentor. Jesus was the one who they had followed for three years. This was an intimate group. They called Him Lord, the one deserving of obedience. In their lives then and in our lives now as His followers, He continues to be revealed to the world that He came to seek and to save. Through our service to others, we reveal this one who stepped down out of His heavenly position to walk as a human to suffer and die on our behalf. There are three qualities of His service that we must seek to discipline ourselves to follow.

1. The Opportunity of our Service

As Jesus reclined at the table celebrating Passover with his faithful disciples, two items sat in the corner totally ignored by those at the party. They may have been unnoticed but that seems impossible. It was the practice of the day that when one entered a home from a journey, however long or short, a servant would greet the guest and, taking a bowl of water and a towel, would kneel to wash the dirt from his/her feet. The room was

prepared for the Passover evening. Guests were expected. Therefore, we can assume that in the corner near the door these items would have rested.

The disciples had been arguing over who would be the greatest. They had been greeted earlier in that week at the gates of Jerusalem by adoring crowds seeking to make Jesus their Lord, King. The disciples were discussing who would sit on His right and His left in His Kingdom. They seemed unaware that in a few short hours the greatest sacrifice in history would be offered through a Roman crucifixion. In less than twenty-four hours, the Teacher and Lord that they followed would be carried down from a bloody cross to a borrowed grave and a stone rolled over the entrance. But that night they were celebrating and looking to the future.

Jesus slipped over to the door. Dropping His robe, He wrapped the cloth around his waist, picked up the pan of water and started back to the table. It must have been a shocking moment. Peter questioned His intent, ⁶“He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, “Lord, are you going to wash my feet?”

Jesus had just seized the moment to teach another lesson through service. It was an opportunity to speak about leadership and what it should be. He had taken the opportunity of an ignored task that was seen as beneath everyone else to demonstrate Kingdom servanthood. If the task was not ignored it was at least unrecognized. There are those things in our world that go ignored, or worse, unrecognized by the Christian community as we seek to become something great for God. We live in a world that looks for the spectacular, the successful, the powerful but shy away from the poor, the uninteresting and the mundane. We must begin to have the eyes of our Lord to look for those things that are being ignored such as children without healthy families or even warm beds. We must see the oppressed in our community who are daily sidestepped and ignored. We must also look for those in our group suffering loss and defeat. We must look for those circumstances where we can, if willing, serve another without thinking about the payback.

2. The Object of our Service

Notice that, as Jesus knelt to wash the feet of His disciples, He did not discriminate between the worthy and the unworthy. He stopped at the feet of Peter and had a rather interesting discussion with him.

⁶He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, “Lord, are you going to wash my feet?”

⁷Jesus replied, “You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand.”

⁸“No,” said Peter, “you shall never wash my feet.” Jesus answered, “Unless I wash you, you have no part with me.”

⁹“Then, Lord,” Simon Peter replied, “not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!”

Peter saw himself as unworthy for the Teacher and Lord to wash his feet. Whether it was shame at having missed the opportunity or pride in his Teacher and Lord that would not allow Him to serve, Peter denied Him at first. Then the Teacher spoke those words in the later half of verse 8. Unless we allow the Lord to wash away the sin of our life in the blood of His sacrifice, unless we allow the Lord to accept the guilt and dirt of our life, we will never experience the intimate relationship He came to provide. Notice the immediate and radical reversal Peter makes in verse 9. You see, the issue is not about dirt and smelly feet; it is about hearts and people. Those are the things that our Lord came to seek and to save.

But there was another who had his feet washed that night. His name was Judas. In a few short hours he would lead a troop of Roman soldiers to a small garden outside of Jerusalem where Jesus would be praying and the betrayal would become public. But at the moment of the foot washing only Judas and the Teacher knew what was about to happen. The same forgiveness, the same relationship, the possibility offered to Peter would be offered to Judas but he made a choice to refuse.

Our Lord did not serve only those who would respond or who showed promise in leadership. He served all; even those who would by lies and treachery send Him to a Roman cross. Should we not do likewise as we have been commanded?

3. The Attitude of our Service

The first three verses of the passage reveal the attitude of His service that He desired for us to do likewise:

¹It 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.

²The evening meal was being served, and the devil had already prompted Judas Iscariot, son of Simon, to betray Jesus. ³Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God....

His attitude was driven by love. There was not another motive except His love for those He served. It is hard to risk or sacrifice for those we do not love. Sometimes the reason for that difficulty is that we do not know them or we do not like them. Our Lord reminds us that all men are created in the image of God and therefore reflect that image to us. When we look at another person may we be guided by what God sees and not what we see. May we be guided by the thought of the ultimate destination of a person and not the present circumstances of the person. May we be guided by the fact of our Lord's acceptance of our sinfulness and ugliness that we might have life. May we truly begin to love our neighbour because God has loved us.

His attitude of service existed in spite of the obstacles present in those He trusted. We must serve in spite of the attitudes or actions of others.

His attitude of service was in light of His relationship with God. He knew where he had been and where He was going. May the attitude in which we share reflect the relationship we have with God and His ultimate plan for us.

Call to Commitment:

We are called to reveal our Lord on a daily basis by the demonstration of service we show every day. May we demonstrate His attitude as we look for the opportunities to minister to a world He has called us to touch.

Concluding the Service:

Lead the group to sing “Make Me a Servant”.

Servant Project: Share details of how people can serve in a local ministry project.

Say: “Bernard of Clairvaux wrote ‘Learn the lesson that, if you are to do the work of a prophet, what you need is not a scepter but a hoe.’ Before you leave, I ask you to consider doing one small act of service before leaving this home (or worship building).”
It might be helping to put furniture back in order for the host/hostess. It might be serving someone else who has a need mentioned earlier. It might be as simple as getting a coat for someone.”

Enlist someone to pray asking for God’s grace and peace and for the worshippers to be recognized as a humble and blessed people.

For use during the “Gathering Time:

The nicest thing that anyone (other than Jesus) has done for me was

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