

Service with a Smile . . . and a Song and Dance!
Participant Handout followed by Leader's Guide

What's your picture of a servant? Many of us picture someone quietly going about their duties in the background, like the custodian emptying the trash or the restaurant staff clearing tables. Many Christians picture Jesus humbly washing His disciples' feet (John 13:1-17).

The creative teams at Disney created an interesting picture of service in the song "Be Our Guest" from their movie "Beauty and the Beast." The servants of an enchanted castle, after many long years with never a visitor, are thrilled when a guest arrives for dinner. They "only live to serve" and their service is joyful, exuberant, and unrestrained. It's not just dinner, but music and dance with a cast of thousands! It's definitely over the top!

Note the lyrics, especially where they describe how they felt when they had no one to serve.

1. This service certainly isn't "quiet" or "in the background." Would you call it humble service? Why or why not?
2. Jesus' service certainly was not flashy. He did not want to draw attention to himself as a 'miracle worker.' Do you see any of the joyful, unrestrained, 'over the top' service of the castle servants in the service of Jesus during his earthly ministry?
3. After washing the disciples' feet, Jesus said, "I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you" (John 13:15). How does his command and example affect the way you serve others? Very specifically, how will it affect what you do, and the way you do it, in the next 24 hours?
4. Imagine what it would be like if all of us who follow Jesus were yearning "for a soul to wait upon" and "a chance to use our skill" for others. Imagine our service being as joyful and unrestrained, as "above and beyond" and "over the top" as that of the castle servants. What would power that kind of service? What might be the results in those we serve, and those we observe our service?



For the leader:

You'll need to show the video and have the lyrics handy. The song occurs when Belle comes out of the room to explore the castle. (*See www.cqli.com for important information on licenses to allow showing of copyrighted works.*) At this writing, the full lyrics are at <http://www.lyricsclassicdisney.com/lyrics/classicdisney/beourguest.htm>.

The lyrics to particularly note are these:

Life is so unnerving for a servant who's not serving.
He's not whole without a soul to wait upon. . . .
Ten years we've been rusting, needing so much more than dusting;
Needing exercise, a chance to use our skill.
Most days we just lay around the castle, flabby, fat and lazy ..."

The discussion questions are designed to bring out these points:

1. Opinions will vary, but their service can be said to be humble in that they were giving their best for the sake of the person being served, not for their own egos.
2. Again, opinions will vary, but it can be noted that his first miracle provided wine for a wedding feast (John 2:1-11). Many times, when someone is healed, they and the crowd express joy and wonder, and it's easy to imagine that Jesus was happy for them, too.
But the main point to note is that the primary way he served was not by healing or turning water into wine. It was by becoming human and willingly undergoing death by crucifixion for our sake (see Phil. 2:6-8). That service was truly "over the top."
3. The goal of this question is to get each of us to think of specific acts of service that we will do in our regular lives at home and work and elsewhere, and what attitude we'll bring to them.
4. The goal here is to consider what message Christians, as a whole, are giving the world by the way we serve. Service that is truly 'over the top' can only be powered by the gospel. Rejoicing in what Jesus has done for us, knowing all he has in store for us, we are freed for joyful and unrestrained service. Our service, then, is different than that of other good-hearted people. Such exuberant service invites attention and questions, giving us the opportunity to point to the One who inspires such service.

Note: This Leader's Guide is a free download from www.TheEquipper.org. A Participant's Handout is also available there. Permission is given to copy and use these tools, without change, within your own church or other organization.

