

SESSION 4: WHILE I SERVE // Becoming More Like Christ

TO GET THE CONVERSATION STARTED...

Can you recall a time when you received exceptional service at a restaurant, or anywhere else, for that matter. We're talking about the kind of service that catches you by surprise, blows you away. **How would you describe exceptional service? How does it make you feel?**

The focus of this opening discussion should center on how being on the receiving end of exceptional service is an incredible experience, the memory of which lasts for a while!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1) What are the qualities of exceptional service described in these verses?

Matthew 24:45 *The servant does his assigned tasks, even when his master is not present!*

Luke 17:7-10 *A good servant does not expect a reward for simply doing his duty.*

- 2) You may recall the Academy Award-nominated song, "Be Our Guest," from Disney's classic movie "Beauty and the Beast" (1991). During this familiar scene, all the former servants in the Beast's castle, trapped for years in the form of pots, clocks, dishes, and candlesticks, sing and dance to entertain their special guest, the young maiden named Belle. Note especially the verse:

*"Life is so unnerving for a servant who's not serving/He's not whole without a soul to wait upon!
Ahh...those good ol' days when we were useful/Suddenly those good ol' days are gone!"¹*

Based on this verse, and the entire scene, how would you describe their attitude towards serving?

The "servants" are overjoyed at the opportunity to serve – to do what they are made to do! Literally, they sing and dance while they serve!

- 3) Think of one of the places God has called you to serve. What can you learn about serving in that place...

a. ...from a good restaurant server?

b. ...from the servants in the two scripture verses above?

c. ...from the servants in the Disney movie?

Answers will vary. Allow for as much reflection and discussion as your schedule will permit.

CONSIDER THIS!

Our service usually involves a task, whether it is preparing dinner or paying the bills at home, writing a report or making a presentation at work, or handing out bulletins or serving

¹ Lyrics from the song "Be Our Guest," written by Alan Menken and Howard Ashman (*Beauty and the Beast*, Disney, 1991).



meals to the homeless *at church*. Doing our task to the best of our ability is critical to serving exceptionally. **But there's more.** Consider these additional ways we can be an effective servant of our Lord while we do our servant tasks.

4) **Serving with Jesus' heart!**

What do we learn about a servant's heart from our Lord's example?

Mark 1:40-41

Jesus had compassion on the man in need, leading Him to put Himself at risk to help the man.

John 13:3-5 *Jesus was willing to do the lowliest task a servant would do!*

Is there an area of serving where you'd like to work on your attitude?

Allow time for reflection and comment.

5) **Sharing the Gospel as you serve!**

Read Romans 12:20. Why might an unbeliever be more open to the Gospel message from someone who is serving him?

Answers may vary, but focus on how receiving unexpected help opens up hearts

Read 1 Peter 3:15. Imagine that you have just done some service for a stranger and he asks, "Why would you do that for me?" How would you answer him?

Focus on how we should be prepared to talk simply about our faith in a situation like this.

6) **Helping your fellow servants serve!**

We all are part of the Body of Christ. In the church, we are quick to help each other when illness or disaster strikes. *But what we don't always realize is that we can also help each other in the everyday ways we serve!* Here are some suggestions to get started!

- a) **Invite someone to serve with you.** Why might someone be more likely to get involved if you ask this way?
- b) **Keep your eyes open for other people's gifts.** Affirm those gifts and the impact of their service. Who can you affirm this week?
- c) **Express appreciation.** Let people know that their contribution makes a difference, that it is worthwhile, and that God is using their service for His purposes. Who can you thank for serving you this week? When you do, *be specific* about how that person's service blesses you!
- d) **Ask, "How's it going?"** Serving can be difficult at times. Busy schedules can get in the way. Personality clashes and conflicts arise. Our sinful self-centeredness can get in the way. And Satan is always hard at work to discourage and distract us from serving. How can you show concern for another servant by asking a simple, "How's it going?" Remember: you don't need to solve the problem: a sympathetic ear may be all a person needs!

