

Blessed²

Saved People Serve People

Saved people serve people (1 Peter 4:7-11). The call for all Jesus followers, even at the end of the age, is not to simply hang on and survive. We are challenged to *serve*, to use a portion of our time, talents, and skills to give to others. In fact, Jesus taught His disciples that the greatest among His followers is the one who serves (Luke 22:24-26). It is what Jesus modeled, who did not come to be served but to serve and to give His life as a ransom for many (Matthew 20:26-28). When we receive salvation through Jesus by faith, we accept it by following and emulating His life and heart of serving.

GET THINGS STARTED

Who do you know that excels in serving others with love and grace? How do you think a person develops that kind of heart and puts it into action? Why are many Jesus followers hesitant to actively serve others?

GO DEEPER

1. In 1 Peter 4:7-11, what does Peter charge Jesus followers to do with the end of all things at hand? Why do you think he gave these instructions instead of encouraging them to merely hang on, persevere, and survive?
2. What did Jesus mean in Luke 22:24-26 when He said that *the greatest among you should be like the youngest, and the one who rules like the one who serves*? How can the greatest be like the youngest, or how does one rule and serve at the same time?
3. According to Matthew 20:26-28, Jesus did not come to be served but to serve. How did Jesus serve, and what implications does that have for how we should serve (if we are to follow His example)?

MAKE IT PERSONAL

1. As a follower of Jesus, how are you actively serving others (spontaneously or planned)? What are your biggest barriers to serving, especially in this season, and what does it look like to overcome those barriers?
2. How spiritually mature or experienced do you need to be to serve others regularly? What possible reasons do you give to disqualify or dismiss yourself from serving? When is it okay for you to not be serving for a season?
3. If you attend Beltway in person, how open are you to serving on a Beltway team with kids or hospitality?

PRACTICE IT NOW

As a group, take time in prayer to ask God to give you a greater heart and willingness to actively serve others. Ask Him for the courage to follow His example, even if you feel unqualified or if it comes at a cost. Ask God to show you where and how you are to serve, to reveal to you more clearly what areas of serving are a good fit for your passion, skills and abilities, and experience.