

Lesson Aim: To cultivate the attitude and behaviors of a servant in our hearts.



connecting

Prayer: Start your time together by asking the Holy Spirit to lead your discussion.

Icebreaker: When you were growing up, what is something you felt like you were good at?

1. **Read Matthew 20:20-28.** What was the mother of James and John asking Jesus for? What does it seem were their primary motives in asking for this?
2. What criteria does Jesus give for greatness? How did Jesus exemplify this in His life?
3. What are some ways we can apply “servant-hearted greatness” in our lives in the different places where God has placed us?
4. **Read Matthew 5:16.** How does serving others please God? How does it add value to others? How does it help the person who serves grow? Share a time when you were able to serve God and experienced some of these things happening.



growing

5. **Read 1 Peter 4:7-11.** What does prayer (v.7) have to do with discovering our strengths?
6. Why must we love (v.8)? What does love have to do with using our strengths for God’s glory?
7. According to verse 10, what is a key purpose of the gifts we have been given?
8. In verse 11, Peter identified two categories of gifts: speaking and serving. Speaking gifts are usually up-front and in the spotlight, serving gifts are more behind-the-scenes. When we speak or serve, we act as God’s representatives. Why do you think Peter chose two such opposite gifts to highlight in this verse? Which category of gifts do you identify more with?
9. With which statement do you find yourself agreeing most:
 - a) I don’t feel that I have any talents or abilities.
 - b) I have talents and abilities, but I have never used them for God.
 - c) I have talents and abilities, but I don’t know how to use them for God.
 - d) I am using my talents and abilities for God.

Why did you choose the statement you did? How can you make positive progress toward the 4th statement?

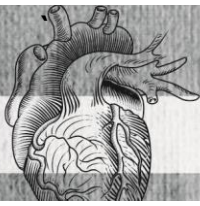


serving



reaching

Close in prayer as the Holy Spirit leads you. Ask God to do whatever is necessary to cultivate a servant heart in each person present.



Heart

RECOGNITION & THANKS TO OUR ARMY OF VOLUNTEER SERVANTS

▶ Mark 10:43-45 - *Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.*

PRINCIPLE #1: A heart that follows Jesus Christ is a heart that serves.

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN SOMEONE SEIZES A SERVICE OPPORTUNITY?

- ▶ God – We make Him look good (Matthew 5:16)
- ▶ Others – We add value to their lives (Galatians 5:13)
- ▶ Self – We shift the focus away from ourselves (Matthew 20:25-28)

PRINCIPLE #2: When it comes to service, God expects all His kids to get into the game.

BIBLICAL COMPONENTS OF SERVICE

- ❶ Raw Availability (Luke 1:26-38 / Mary)

PRINCIPLE #3: The greatest ability you can offer God is "avail-ability."

APPLICATION OPPORTUNITY: KidVenture

- ❷ Confident Humility (John 13:1-5, 12-17 / Jesus)

PRINCIPLE #4: People serve from a position of strength, not weakness.

- ❸ Gift-Based Engagement (Roman 12:3-8 / All Believers)

• COMPOSITE (NON-EXHAUSTIVE) LIST OF SPIRITUAL GIFTS

- | | |
|--------------------------|----------------|
| ➤ Administration | ➤ Hospitality |
| ➤ Apostleship | ➤ Intercession |
| ➤ Craftsmanship | ➤ Knowledge |
| ➤ Creative Communication | ➤ Leadership |
| ➤ Discernment | ➤ Mercy |
| ➤ Encouragement | ➤ Prophecy |
| ➤ Evangelism | ➤ Shepherding |
| ➤ Faith | ➤ Teaching |
| ➤ Giving | ➤ Wisdom |
| ➤ Helps/Service | ➤ Other |

- Don't wait on the sidelines until you've figured it all out... just jump in & serve!