



## **GROUP ICE BREAKER**

Discuss what society says is the definition of greatness; money, power, prestige, athleticism etc. What has shaped your thoughts about what constitutes greatness?

## **REVIEW LAST WEEK'S NEXT STEPS**

What, if any, next step did you commit to last week, how did it go?

- I will be grateful for every gift that comes from God.
- Freely I have received; freely I will give.
- I will receive the gift of love, forgiveness, friendship and power through Jesus' life, death and resurrection.
- I will speak the love language of giving gifts this week.
- I will practice being a cheerful giver.

## **THIS WEEK'S SERMON RECAP**

One thing Jesus taught his disciples over and over again is how to love through acts of service. He modeled it with his life, seeking to serve rather than to be served. From the beginning of eternity to creation, through the outworking of redemption after the fall, to the end of eternity, the Father, Son, and Spirit pour themselves out in humble service of each other and creation, and even fallen creatures like you and me. The great problem we face is that love almost always involves acts of service that require the expenditure of energy. A lot of us are simply too drained, or to be honest, just too lazy to spend energy on acts of service because we've devoted our energy to other things. But the truth about love is that love just boils down to acts of service. As we grow in servanthood, people discover it really is a better way to live. Somewhere along the line you discover Jesus really knew what he was talking about, that it is truly better to give than to receive. Love serves.

## **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. Jesus says, "The great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be a slave of all." Are you comfortable with this mandate? Why or why not?
2. Pastor Matt says he, "believes the greatest tragedy of Christianity is Christian people who've grown up in the faith have never allowed God to use their lives to do anything." What is your response to this and what do you think would help you to grow in this area?
3. The problem most of us face when it comes to love is not that we don't know how to do loving things, it's that something blocks us from doing it. What are some of the things that get in our way? (Consider: gender roles, ego, pride, laziness, attitude...)



# LOVE WITH SERVING

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# LOVE

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (CONT)

4. Why did Jesus wash his disciples dirty feet? What other ultimate act of service did he perform for all of us and why?
5. What are the signs of spiritual maturity when it comes to serving?
6. Acts of service to others = Love. Paul in Philippians 2:5-8 says, "You should adopt the way of thinking that was also adopted by Christ Jesus who precisely because he was in the very nature God... became a servant." Think about your relationships. What acts of service for others can you commit to doing this week?
7. If God were completely in charge of your life, what area of service in the church or community might he be leading you to?

## NEXT STEPS FOR THIS WEEK (COMMIT TO GROW)

- I will show love through acts of service this week.
- I will look for chances to serve this week.

## SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

- Mark 9:33-35
- Mark 10:41-45
- Philippians 2:5-11
- Galatians 5:13
- Luke 17:7-10
- John 13:4-5
- John 13:12-15
- Ephesians 5:25