

session 7 study guide

taking time to care

the gift of serving and the gift of helping

dig

Throughout the Bible, we see Christians being called to serve and help those around them. Christians are still called to do the same today. But we don't have to do it on our own; the Holy Spirit gives individuals the spiritual gifts of serving and helping.

the gift of serving

"We have different gifts, according to the grace given us . . . Let [each] use it in proportion to his faith. If it is serving, let him serve" (Romans 12:6-7).

1. What are some jobs in our society that are based on serving?

The life of Jesus provides us with an example of the perfect servant. While some expected Jesus to come as a boisterous warrior with a large, showy army, Jesus instead came humbly to show us how to love and serve. “If anyone wants to be first, he must be the very last, and the servant of all,” Jesus told His disciples (Mark 9:35).

2. Read John 13:1-20. In these verses, we read that Jesus is about to have dinner with His disciples when He does something unusual. What are the two reasons that Jesus washes the disciples’ feet? (See verses 1 and 15.)

3. Why does Peter say he doesn’t want Jesus to wash his feet?

4. Jesus replies to Peter by saying, “Unless I wash you, you have no part with me” (v. 8). Explain Jesus’ response.

5. Being a servant is not always easy or fun, even for those who have the gift of serving. Yet in spite of the difficulties and sacrifices, we all are called to be servants. According to the following verses, why should we persevere in servanthood despite the difficulties?

1 Peter 2:21-24

Matthew 25:35-40

6. Read Galatians 5:13-15. According to these verses, if we love and serve one another, what will we prevent?

7. Read Matthew 19:30. How does this verse relate to the quote about being second fiddle? What does Jesus mean when He says the “last shall be first”?

the gift of helping

“And in the church God has appointed . . . those able to help others” (1 Corinthians 12:28). The gift of helping is the special ability to assist others to increase their effectiveness in life. The person with the gift of helping is often a background person who makes things happen without being noticed. Even though this gift is often overlooked, it is a vital act of ministry in the Church.

1. Do you know people with the gift of helping? Who are they, and what do they do?

In Paul’s letters, he often mentions “faithful helpers.” These help-ers were apparently the backbone of the Early Church. These faithful helpers freed up Paul and the other leaders to do mighty works of ministry. Without the helpers, there would have been no Pauls or Peters in the Early Church.

2. How did the following individuals act as helpers for the apostles and the Early Church?

Priscilla and Aquila (Read Romans 16:3-6.)

Tryphena, Tryphosa and Persis (Read Romans 16:12.)

Epaphroditus (Read Philippians 2:25-30.)

3. What attitudes or qualities do you feel that a person with the gift of helping needs to have?

4. Which of these attitudes and qualities do you possess?

5. Which do you struggle with?

6. Read Philippians 2:3-11. How does Paul suggest we help others, according to verses 3 and 4?

7. What is the central theme of verses 5 through 8?

8. What is the result of Christ's obedience and service, according to verses 9 though 11?

reflect

1. Why should we serve others?

2. After working through this session, what are some of the “thankless” jobs you now have a better appreciation for at church and at home?

3. List some ways you can work at being a servant in the following areas:

At home:

At school:

At church:

4. What specific areas of your life need to change so that you can be more of a servant?

5. How can serving others benefit you?

6. Think of someone in your life who acts as a servant. What is one thing you could do for them this week to thank them for all that they do?

meditation



Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart,
as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that
you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward.

It is the Lord Christ you are serving.

COLOSSIANS 3:22-24