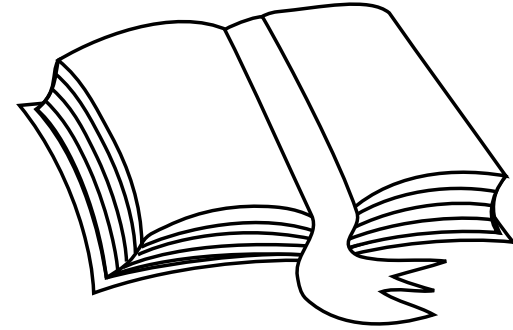


- B. The Corinthians were helping their Christian brothers and sisters in Jerusalem. What do you think the results are when we help non-Christians? Are the results the same as when we help Christians? If they are not the same, how are they different?
- C. What is one kind of service that you, personally, can do for someone else each day?



CAN I HELP YOU?

NOTES

SECTION I. Introduction

- A. What is one thing you are asked to do in your home or on your job that you really dislike doing? Cook? Clean the toilet? Drive someone somewhere? Answer the phone when there is a complaint?
- B. Why is it so hard to do that particular thing?
- C. What is your inner reaction when you are asked to do this thing?

SECTION II. We often want to avoid a certain job. If we had a servant, that is the job we would give the servant. Jesus' whole life, including His death, was the life of a servant. He was a servant to each one of us. The evening before He died, He had a special meal with His disciples. At that time, Jesus taught them a very special lesson by washing their feet. Read John 13:12-17.

- A. Why does Jesus say He is washing their feet?
(verse 15)

- B. Why do you think Jesus chose this particular job as the example in His lesson?
- C. How did Jesus emphasize that what He was doing was the opposite of the usual way that things are done in the world?
- D. What does Jesus say His disciples are to do?
- E. If they follow what Jesus said and did, what does He say the result will be?
- F. Think about the jobs we think are too hard, things we don't want to do, or jobs we think are *beneath* us. How might Jesus' example change our attitude about doing those things for others?

SECTION III. In John 12:26 Jesus describes servants and serving. Read John 12:26.

- A. How are *following Jesus* and *serving Jesus* connected?
- B. If we follow and serve Jesus, where does Jesus say we will always be?
- C. When we serve Jesus, what will the result be?
- D. Jesus spoke these words a short time before He served us by dying. Do you think that serving Jesus and others is a kind of dying for us? In what way?

SECTION IV. Jesus asks us to serve others. He promises that He will be with us as we serve and that God will honor us as a result. In 1 Corinthians 12:1 Paul talks about the *Gifts of the Spirit*. He says, "Brothers and sisters, I don't want there to be any misunderstanding concerning spiritual gifts."

A. Read 1 Corinthians 12:4-7.

- 1. What does Paul say is the reason that God gives us the *gifts of the Spirit*?
- 2. Does everyone receive the same gift(s)?
- 3. According to verse 6, why isn't it proper for anyone to believe that his gift is better than another person's gift?

B. Read 2 Corinthians 3:5.

Where do we get the ability and the strength to serve?

SECTION V. Paul speaks in 2 Corinthians about a gift that the Corinthian Christians gave to the Christians in Jerusalem who did not have money for food because of a famine in the Jerusalem area. Read 2 Corinthian 9:12-13.

- A. What three things resulted from the service that the Corinthians did for their fellow Christians in Jerusalem?