



CAN I HELP YOU?

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?

CAN I HELP YOU? LEADER'S NOTES

SECTION I.

This section gives us an opportunity to consider the difficulty of being a *servant*. It points out the fact that few of us really want to be servants. We all want to be served. That is the normal, sinful desire of everyone. Being a servant is the opposite of what is the most comfortable in our lives. This prepares the group for considering what being a servant really might mean in their lives.

SECTION II.

B. Culturally, the job which Jesus chose to do for His disciples was one of the lowest jobs of the lowest servant. It was a *dirty* job, a bit like cleaning the toilet in our culture.

C. By reminding them that they called Him *teacher and Lord*, Jesus was emphasizing to the disciples that what He had just done was totally different from what was expected. Teachers or rabbis were revered in the culture and *Lord* is also a title of reverence. Washing the feet was something a person in that position simply did not do. Jesus had reversed the ways of the world.

SECTION III.

Although the *gifts of the Spirit* are not enumerated in 1 Corinthians 12:4-7, you may choose to read on in the passage if you have time. There are other passages which enumerate other gifts, but the emphasis here is on the fact that we all receive a gift or gifts and that we are to use these gifts and abilities to serve God by serving others. We are not responsible for the fact that we have these gifts and talents. They are true gifts and because we have them does not mean we can claim them as something we have by our own efforts.

produces grow, to bring forth or yield—America
produces many vegetables and fruits

evidence proof

presence being with

common general

2 Corinthians 3:5

qualified make capable by skill or training

claim demand as a right

2 Corinthians 9:12-13

serve help

provide supply

produce make, grow

genuine real

commitment obligation, promise

spread cover with, share

Good News news that Jesus Christ is Savior to all who
believe in Him

generosity unselfish giving

share (verb) divide and give out

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?

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? VOCABULARY

John 13:12-17

disciples	people who believe in and follow Jesus
Lord	title of an official person
example	event that demonstrates (shows) a general rule
guarantee	to give a promise
slaves	people who are owned by another person and who must work for their owner without pay
superior	better than
messengers	persons who deliver a message
blessed	favored by God

John 12:26

honor	showing great respect
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1 Corinthians 12:4-7

spiritual	not physical, not mental, but pertaining to God
Spirit	Holy Spirit, third person of the triune God
types	kinds