

## Week 6 – Serving

February 7, 2021

Group Discussion Guide



(90 minutes needed)

### **Begin with 5 minutes of silence + prayer (5-10 minutes)**

As you begin this week talking about following Jesus, start out with five minutes of prayerful silence.

*[Why silence? Our world is so busy, distracted, and bee-like, with technology filling in any gaps in between. With all that moving, it can be hard to hear others and hear the voice of God. As we gather together, let's press pause and enter into a moment of quiet so that we can hear what God is saying to us and through others.]*

Once you're finished with a few moments of quiet centering, have a specified person in the group pray this prayer from Thomas Merton. Be sure to also pray for your group time together.

*My Lord God, we have no idea where we're going. We do not see the road ahead of us. We cannot know for certain where it will end, nor do we really know ourselves, and the fact that we think we're following You will does not mean that we are actually doing so. But we believe that the desire to please You does in fact please You. And we hope that we have that desire in all that we are doing. We hope that we'll never do anything apart from that desire. And we know that if we do this, You will lead us by the right road, though we may know nothing about it. Therefore, we will trust You always, even though we may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death. We will not fear, for You are always with us, and You will never leave us to face our perils alone. Amen.*

### **Read this overview (1 minute)**

We know everyone here is at a different place in their faith and growth looks very different on a case-by-case basis. What does it look like, though, to grow from wherever we are now to continually making disciples? What's Next will help us to unpack and highlight possible next steps.

This week, we're looking at *servicing*.

Jesus came as the ultimate servant. He emptied himself, he came to Earth, and he suffered for all of mankind. He didn't have to. It wasn't pleasant. But he did it anyways (**John 10:17-18**).

As followers of Jesus, we set our sights on modeling ourselves after the life of Jesus. We want to become the kind of people who do the things Jesus did. We want to live like Jesus, look like Jesus, and love like Jesus.

This means that we want to be intentional about becoming the kinds of people for whom serving is second nature. Because it certainly was for Jesus (**Mark 10:45**). That's what he was all about! Serving the lost, the least, and the lonely.

How might we follow after him in that way?

### **Scripture + Debrief in small groups (40 minutes)**

Split your group into triads to read the following Scriptures and debrief the sermon together.

- What new thoughts or insights about serving did you have as a result of this message?
- How did this message deepen your faith? How did it challenge you?
- **Read Matthew 20:17-34; James 1:19-27; James 2:14-26; and 1 Peter 4:1-11.** What stands out to you in these passages? What challenges you? What words or phrases are jumping out at you? What do these verses have to say about serving?
- When you think about serving, does that illicit feelings of joy and expectation in you? Or does it illicit feelings of disgust and "here we go again!"?
- As you think over 2020, in what ways did you see God serving you throughout the year? Explain.
- As you think over 2020, in what ways did the people of God serve you during that year? Explain.
- As you think over 2020, in what ways did you serve others? How did you serve? How did serving make you feel?

### **Transition back to one large group for recap (30 minutes)**

- What were some insights that came from your smaller group discussions?
- Go around in a circle and have each person share their reflections on the question pertaining to 2020...
  - How did they see God serve them in 2020?
  - How did God's people serve them in 2020?
  - How did they serve in 2020?
- What is one way your group can serve the 317 in the next 1-3 months? (For ideas, visit [www.thecreek.org/serve](http://www.thecreek.org/serve))

- Who in your group is going to oversee setting up a serve opportunity for your group to do?

### **Close with Prayer (10 minutes)**

Finish your group session with prayer. You might want to ask someone in your group to write down everyone's prayer requests and then send them to the whole group for everyone to be praying through the week.

- What is on your heart that you need prayer for?
- Who in your life needs prayer?

Close your time together by praying in your triads. Thank God for how He has served you and spend time interceding for the requests that were shared.