



Pastor James Greer

James@jcpineville.com

www.jcpineville.com

Life on Mission – Leader Guide

Session Three: Serve

MEMORY VERSE: “The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’” (Matthew 25:40)

Jesus told us to love God and love others. Love, however, is often misunderstood. (We “love” chocolate, for instance!) To simply say that we love, or even have warm feelings toward someone, is not enough. Loving others means taking action and serving them. In fact, Jesus told us that when we serve others in practical ways – feeding them, clothing them, sheltering them, visiting them - that is how we show our love for Him. God sees our service toward others as love toward Him

Beyond that, our service to others may introduce them to the love of God. When we serve them, we break down walls in ways that words simply cannot. Rather than trying to convince someone to believe in God, or trying to “prove” that the Bible is true, we should begin with the simple and loving act of service. This builds trust with people who may have reservations about religion. Service is a way of showing people that we genuinely care for them. They are not “projects” to us - people we’re merely trying to convert. Rather, they are unique individuals who are loved by God, and one of the ways they’ll know that is if we show them His love by serving them.

WE SERVE OTHERS IN PRACTICAL WAY - THAT IS HOW WE SHOW OUR LOVE FOR HIM.

Discussion Questions

- 1) Most of us hate interruptions, but it is often life’s interruptions that provide us opportunities to serve others. How do you typically respond to interruptions or inconveniences?
- 2) In our culture, we place high value on “climbing the ladder,” and on attaining wealth, power, or prestige. How do we tend to see people who don’t aspire to these things? What barriers to serving exist in a culture?

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- 3) What are some needs that you've noticed lately - opportunities where you could possibly serve others? How did you respond to those needs?
- 4) Jason Cullum challenged us to open our eyes to see the needs in our communities that we likely drive past every day. "Odds are, you have a need within a mile or two of your house." What are some of the practical needs?
- 5) Randy Cordell pointed to Romans 12:1 as his theme for ministry: "Therefore I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God." What did you take from his conviction that we need a broader definition of "worship" that includes serving others?
- 6) If we only talk about God in theory but never demonstrate His love, we lose credibility. What are some ways that you and your family can put the Gospel on display through service?
- 7) In order to introduce people to Jesus, we have to genuinely love them - to make them not just friends but family. What steps are you taking (or do you want to take) to love people in this way?
- 8) What are some ways that you've experienced God's love and kindness through the acts of another person?