

Bible: John 13:14-15

Memorize the memory verse John 13: 14-15.

“If then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you.”

Bottom Line: Serve others because of what you have been given, and not what you can get.

SUPPLIES

- Table
- 2 Serving trays (similar to what a waiter would use)
- 5 of each of the following items:
 - Plastic forks
 - Plastic spoons
 - Plastic knives
 - Styrofoam cups
 - Styrofoam bowls
 - Styrofoam plates
 - Napkins
- 2 sets of salt and pepper shakers
- Clipboard with paper and pen

GAME PREP

- Set up a long table at the front of your game play space.
- Add the items listed above to the table at the front – spread them out.
- Divide students into two teams of equal size and have them form two straight lines at the opposite end of where the table has been placed.
- Give each team a serving tray.
- Hand the clipboard to a leader who will keep score throughout the game.
- Have the person with the “Order Up! List” stand in the middle between the teams and the table.

HOW TO PLAY THE GAME

Say: Today, we're talking about serving others.

One of the things that immediately comes to mind when I think of serving is – servers.

Waiters and waitresses make a living by serving others and sometimes their job can be difficult depending on how great their customers are acting.

I'm always impressed by those that can remember an entire table's worth of orders without writing anything down – that's definitely a skill.

So, that is the inspiration for our game.

When the game begins, one person from each team will grab their team's serving tray, run to me (*if you are the person holding the "Order Up! List."*), and I will give you an "order" that you have to fulfill.

Then, I will quickly read a list of items that you will fetch from the items on the table and then say "Order Up!"

You can't write the order down and I won't read it again – you will just have to do your best to remember what I said.

You want to be the first person to return to me with the correct items in order to win a point for your team.

Now, if you see the other team make it back before you finish getting the items, still try!

If the other team is incorrect, you will still have the opportunity to win a point.

But once a team is correct, that round is over.

You will return the items to the table and go back to your team with your tray.

Then, the next round will begin.

When everyone has taken a turn, we will tally the points and see which team is the winner.

You can repeat the list of items as much as needed until everyone has had a turn in the game.

ORDER UP! LIST

- 2 forks, 1 napkin, a salt shaker, and a spoon – ORDER UP!
- 1 plate, a bowl, a knife, and 2 cups – ORDER UP!
- 2 spoons, a pepper shaker, 2 forks, 1 plate, and a napkin - ORDER UP!
- 2 knives, a plate, a salt shaker, a pepper shaker, and a cup - ORDER UP!
- A cup, a plate, a bowl, a spoon, a napkin, and a fork - ORDER UP!
- 2 napkins, a plate, a knife, and a cup - ORDER UP!
- 2 plates, 2 cups, 2 spoons, a salt shaker, and a knife - ORDER UP!
- A pepper shaker, a spoon, a bowl, and a cup - ORDER UP!
- 2 bowls, 2 napkins, 2 forks, 2 napkins - ORDER UP!
- A fork, a spoon, a knife, a napkin, a bowl, a cup, a plate, and a salt and pepper shaker - ORDER UP!

Discussion

Say: Wow! That was awesome.

You are able to remember things really well.

Let me ask you this...

Ask: Do you remember the last time someone went out of their way to do something for you?

I'm talking about something that was over and above what they had to do – and they did it just to be nice.

Allow a few responses.

Follow-up question: What do you think was the motive behind what they did?

Allow a few more responses.

In our world, it's often uncommon for people to be kind or do something for someone else.

But in the Bible, we see a standard of serving others that goes beyond just being "nice" and instead, reflects the heart of God.

God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another.

Here are three quick reasons why you should serve others:

- **1. Jesus served others and so should we.**

Read and memorize the memory verse John 13: 14-15.

"If then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you."

I have given you an example to follow. Do as I have done to you.

This Bible verse follows the story of Jesus washing His disciples' feet – an act of ultimate service.

Jesus wasn't necessarily telling us to wash each other's feet.

He was giving us the perfect example of what it means to have a servant's heart... to care for the needs of others above your own, even if it's uncomfortable.

Jesus, the Savior of the world, repeatedly humbled himself to show us that to be the greatest of all you must become the servant of all.

- **2. Serving others keeps you humble.**

If you have ever worked in a soup kitchen, given clothes to the homeless, or helped anyone in need, it makes you aware of how much you have.

When you see those who own little and are happy and content, it can cause you to take a hard look at what you might take for granted in your life.

Do you appreciate your home, clothes, food, education, family?

Maybe you have a little more gratitude when you look at your own situation in life in comparison to those who are struggling.

Not only that, but serving others means humbling yourself.

You take the focus off of yourself and put it on someone else, even for just a little while.

- **3. Everyone has something to give.**

One thing that often keeps people from serving others is they think they don't have anything to offer.

But everyone has something to give to others because God has given to you.

You can give your time to listen and care for others.

You can use the talents you've been given to bless someone else... write a letter to a soldier or a homebound member of our church, donate food or clothing to a food pantry, or tutor/read to your younger siblings.

Send a note of appreciation to your pastor.

Or even just have an awareness of the needs around you.

You can pick up garbage or offer to take your neighbor's garbage can to the street for them, rake your neighbor's yard, dog sit, offer to babysit, help around the house without being asked...

Believe it or not, serving is a privilege and opportunity that we should be joyful and ready to experience.

Today, I want you to remember to serve others because of what you have been given, and not what you can get.

It will change your perspective and help you understand the example that Jesus gave for us to follow.