



Project Serve:

SPREADING THE GOSPEL BY LENDING A HAND

THIS BOOK BELONGS TO:

LeaderTreks®

Making Disciples...Developing Leaders

Project Serve: Spreading The Gospel By Lending A Hand

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Welcome to Project Serve

At some point in your life, you've probably had a chance to serve others by volunteering somewhere. Maybe you went on a mission trip or participated in an all-day service project with your youth group. If you're like most people, you think service is a good thing, something everyone should do more often. But it's so much more than that. Service can be a lifestyle.

As we follow Christ and become more like him, we start seeing the world the way he does. We start responding to things as he would. We discover that service is more than a checklist to complete or a means to an end. It's a Christ-follower's automatic response to the pain and injustice and brokenness of the world around them. It's an all-the-time thing, as important a part of your identity as your personality, your memories, and even your name.

As you can see, serving is a big deal. It takes a lot of heart, sweat, and commitment. So over these next four sessions, we're going to study how we can follow Christ by serving others.

Here are some things you need to know as you go through this study:

1. God wants to connect with you.

In fact, he's looking forward to it. But are you ready to connect with him? As you go in and out of the sessions and devotional times, make sure you are willing to listen to him and learn from him. He promises that he will come near to you if you come near to him (James 4:8). Try it!

2. What you put into this study is what you'll get out of it.

There are people all around you who have spent a lot of time praying for you and getting ready to invest in you. You'll probably meet some new people, hear some new speakers, and get a chance to spend some quality time with God and with friends. Take advantage of it! Ask hard questions. Commit to being authentic and honest. God wants to use this time and these people in your life.

3. Remember that God has been there, done that.

He gets how hard it is to serve in certain situations. He understands how difficult it is to serve some people. After all, he lived the life of a human to serve us, even though we turned against him. So as you go through this study, don't forget that he knows how you feel!

SESSION ONE

INTRO What is a Servant?

Definition: **servant** | ser·vant | (sur-vuh nt)
noun

1 a person who performs duties for others, especially a person employed in a house to clean or cook **2** a person employed by a government **3** a helpful follower or supporter **4** a person who is devoted to or guided by something

Synonyms: supporter, assistant, attendant, slave, helper, dependent, domestic, drudge, hireling, menial, follower, minion, retainer, serf, server

What images or people come to mind when you hear the word *servant*?



“FOR EVEN THE SON OF MAN DID NOT
COME TO BE SERVED, BUT TO SERVE,
AND TO GIVE HIS LIFE AS A RANSOM
FOR MANY.” MARK 10:45

What is a Servant?

Large Group Session 1



These two pages are designed so you can take note of anything that stands out to you and is worth remembering during the large group talk. This talk will set the stage for the rest of the session. Consider writing down main points, quotes, Bible verses, and any questions that pop into your head.



What does it take to be a true servant?

A large, empty yellow rectangular box with a black border, intended for a written response to the question above it.

What is one obstacle
that prevents you from
serving like Jesus?



What is a Servant?

Small Group Session 1

A Second Look Case Study 1:

Jordan considered herself a servant. After all, she had a long history of involvement in various service projects. When her high school choir held its yearly fundraiser, she went door-to-door selling wrapping paper for weeks, getting enough points to earn the inflatable chair that now sits in her room. She never passed up an opportunity to buy Girl Scout cookies (nothing better than helping out a good cause and getting some Thin Mints out of the deal). And when winter arrived, she was sure to empty the loose change from her pockets into the red buckets whenever she passed one. The bell ringers always thanked her, and she felt generous.

Then one day, Jordan was driving with her family to Sunday morning worship at her church, and they were running late. As they pulled up to an intersection, she noticed a man standing on the corner, holding a cardboard sign that said, “Anything helps!” As he approached her car window, she quickly looked down at her phone, trying to appear busy. By the time she glanced back up, he had shuffled past to the next car. Later, after church was over, a group of her friends started picking up abandoned bulletins, handouts, and coffee cups. One asked if she’d give them a hand. She said she would—right after she used the restroom. When she finally got back, the work was done. *No worries*, she thought. *There’s always next week.*

Do you think Jordan is correct to call herself a “servant”?
Why or why not?

Would you consider yourself a “servant”?
Why or why not?

What do you think Jesus would have done if the
man at the intersection had approached him?

What kind of serving is easy for you? What kind of serving is
hard?

What is a Servant?

Small Group Session 1

A LITTLE DEEPER

Take a look at each of these Bible passages and get ready to talk through the following questions with your group.

John 13:12-14: When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them. "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet."

Why was washing his disciples' feet such an incredible act of service?

According to this passage, what's the most important reason for us to serve other people?

Galatians 5:13-14: You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love. For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself."

What does service look like, according to Paul (the writer of Galatians)?

What do you think freedom has to do with serving others?

Isaiah 58:10: And if you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness, and your night will become like the noonday.

Who in your own culture is hungry? Who is oppressed?

What are some other needs that you see on a daily basis?



Apply It

Write down one way you can grow as a servant. Think about something you can do within the next 24 hours!

Be Specific

What are you going to do?

When are you going to do it?

Is there someone who can keep you accountable?

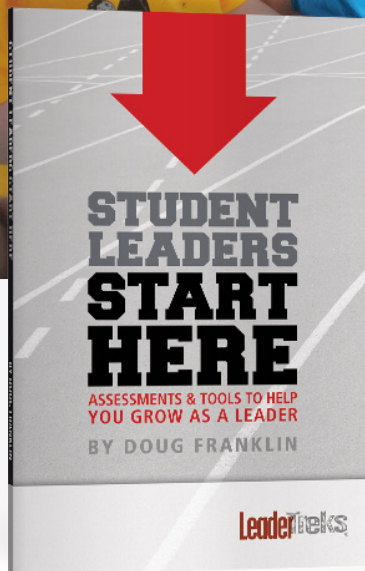
notes:



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