

40-Day Refresh Discussion Questions

Service: Mark 10:42-45

Drawn from the February 4, 2024, sermon by Dr. Jeff Chandler

Opener: How has the practice of serving others without drawing attention to yourself been a positive influence in your life?

This small group study is a companion to the 40-Day Refresh devotional readings for February 5 – February 10 as well as a reflection on the sermon from February 4.

Mark 10:42-45

Jesus called them together and said, "You know that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. 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."

1. Why do you think God wants to humble us before we receive accolades? What can happen if we receive attention and honor too early?

John 13:12,15-17

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... I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.

2. What does Jesus' example in the washing of his disciple's feet teach us about service?

Acts 20:35

In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

3. So far in this discussion Jesus has turned the tables on what is expected. Why is it more blessed to give than to receive?

Ephesians 2:19

"Now you are no longer strangers to God and foreigners to heaven, but you are members of God's very own family."

4. In his Devotion on February 7th, Keith Sandell illustrated the ways he sees people serving in our church as a family of believers. When we see a lot of people engaged and serving in a church and especially in the community what does that convey about our faith and what we value?

James 2:17

Jesus' brother, James, wrote, ". . . *faith by itself, if it is NOT accompanied by action, is dead.*"

5. What are some personal actions that have made your faith come alive?

John 13:35

John said, "By this shall all men know that you are my disciples, if you love one to another."

6. When we love other Christians (including those from other churches) and also overflow with love for those in our lives who don't currently follow Jesus, it makes a big statement! Why do you think it is rare that we see this practiced, when it's so obviously good? What makes it hard to do?

1 Corinthians 16:14

“Let all that you do be done in love.”

7. How can the group pray for you in an area where you would like to cultivate more love for someone (Pick one that is a challenge!)? What would loving and serving this person look like?

Group Prayer Time: Lord, as we consider the discipline of service, help us to focus on humility, action and love. Enable us to serve in your power so that the glory goes to you. In Jesus' name, Amen.

For Personal Refection your own:

- A. Memorize Mark 10:43 – *“Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant.”*

- B. Go through this week's Bible App plan on the subject "Christian Foundations for Service" (Found on the SCC Downloads page next to this week's Discussion Questions.)

- C. Review the daily devotions for February 5 – February 10 in 40-Day Refresh.

Next week, Saturday February 10 will be a worship night at 6 pm in the Fellowship Center. On Sunday February 11, pastor Jeff will cover "worship" in his sermon. Discussion questions will be available in "Downloads" on the SCC website.