Not First #4:
SERVICE

Word

Scripture Reference
John 13:1-17

Discussion Questions

1. How would you describe an excellent customer service?

2. **The spiritual discipline of service is having joy in serving the Lord.** Read John 13:1-17. In this passage, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ set the example of how service needs to look like. It is a spiritual discipline that needs to be practiced daily to remind you that life is not about us, but about God and others. In order to serve effectively, the Bible teaches us three foundations that need to be set:

   a. *Love forms the basis of service (v. 1-2).* Jesus was in the upper room with his closest disciples. He knew that he would be arrested that night and would soon die for the sins of mankind. He knew He was going to go through the hardship of dying, yet He gladly chose to die to save EVERYONE, including those who would betray Him, because of His love for mankind. This is the greatest act of service: to lay down your life for someone you love. Discuss why you think people in general do not have joy in doing things for others? Have you ever asked yourself, "Why am I doing what I'm doing?" Is your reason for serving others motivated by the desire to be seen/recognized, or is it because you really care for the people you are serving? On the other hand, discuss how you can develop an attitude of serving joyfully. How does love make a big difference in serving others?

   b. *Humility forms the basis of service (v. 3-5).* Jesus, God the Son, worthy to be worshipped, washed his disciples' feet. He exemplified the fact that humility is needed in serving others. Discuss how humbling it is to wash the feet of others, especially during Jesus' time? Is it possible to serve another person without humility? Why?

   c. *Sacrifice forms the basis of service (v. 6-11).* Peter did not fully understand why Jesus wanted to wash his feet, and he refused the gesture, but Jesus told him that unless He does it for Peter, Peter would have no part with Him. This is in reference to Peter's betrayal of Jesus. Jesus exemplified the ultimate kind of service, which was formed by sacrificially laying down His own life for everyone in order to be saved. What does sacrifice really mean? Discuss what sacrifices you are making when you serve another person. Does your service to God make an impact on others because of the sacrifices you are making?

3. **A call to serve others: no exemptions because Jesus is the example (v. 12-16).** Before the washing of feet, the disciples were arguing who would be number one in Jesus' kingdom. This is not what service is about. No one is greater than Jesus, and so no one is exempt from serving. Discuss the many ways you can serve the Lord in your church. What excuses do you often hear when you find that it takes sacrifice to serve the Lord? Discuss how you can "wash the feet" of others in your context?

Walk

Serving others is a great way to check your pride. In serving others you realize that you are not first in this world, that it is not by your convenience but about the sacrifice you do. It checks your motives, testing if you have genuine love for God and for others. It makes you care more and complain less. Think of someone from your home, school, or workplace whom you can serve this week. How would you serve that person? How about in your church? Are you actively serving the body of Christ? If yes, think about how you can continue to joyfully do so. If you are not yet actively serving in your church, ask a minister or staff how you can best serve God and serve others in your community.

Worship & Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank you for teaching me how to serve You and others. Thank you for the example of my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, that in spite of Who He is, He humbly and sacrificially laid HIs own life for a sinner like me as an ultimate gesture of love and service. In return, please help me to learn how to truly serve You as well, by serving others around me. Open my eyes Lord to see the needs where I can serve, and open my heart to be willing to act on it.