

We Live Out Whatever Lives Within

Week of July 15, 2018

These Digging Deeper questions can be used the week following the Sunday message. You can use these questions for personal growth and development, or as a guide for your family or Connect Group discussions.

Message Recap:

Read John 13:12-17

Jesus came to Earth, not just to die on a cross and save us from our sins, but also to live and model what the Father expects from us if we are called his own. Jesus continually showed the disciples that what was most important was loving people and serving them. When we think about serving, most of the time we think about giving up something we want to do to help someone, or giving away our time to go support a cause. While this *is* serving, it isn't exactly what Jesus was trying to tell us. Jesus didn't sign a sheet and go to a planned feet-washing volunteer event. He simply got down in the moment and served his disciples. And just as Jesus did, so he called us to do. This kind of service is not supposed to be something we simply *do sometimes*, but instead it's a daily reflection of *who we are*.

Pray

Lord, please help us to shed the notion putting serving on the calendar, but instead help us to become the daily servants that you've called us to be. Reveal to us the identities that you have for us in you, seeing full well our worth in your eyes. Help us to be less of a people always looking at all the things that keep us so busy that we don't have time to serve, but instead help us remember that we are servants all the time, in all places, and to all people. Make us servants, just as Jesus served.

Getting Started

- What is one thing in your life right now that you like to do that you spend time doing besides work and family?
- Pick three to five words that you could say would define who you are right now.

Digging Deeper

1. Have you ever had a time in your life when you struggled with your own identity?
2. Do you feel like your identity changed when you accepted Christ? How so?
3. What is the difference between living Christ and just trying to do Christ-like things? Which is harder?
4. Do you find yourself spending more time "acting" like a Christian than actually living as one? Share an example of such a time.
5. Read Matthew 16:24. Jesus said that we must "deny ourselves" if we're to follow him. In your life, what does denying yourself look like?
6. Thinking about the things you spend your time on right now, what are some ways that you could serve through those? Where are there other every-day opportunities for you to be a servant?
7. Are there any other ways that you've felt God call you to serve that you've been using the excuse of not having enough time? OR share a story about a time when God called you to serve in an "everyday" kind of way and you obeyed.

Living Jesus

Simply put, if we want to be followers of Christ, we must deny ourselves and become servants. And it doesn't have to be some grand act of service that we plan. All it requires is a change of mind and heart; it's a change of perspective from living for yourself to living from a servant's heart no matter where you are or what you're doing. Jesus was the perfect example of this. (If you're struggling with serving, open the Bible for inspiration.) The world tries to tell us we should serve only our own interests; Jesus says we should serve others. Only you can decide who you're going to listen to.

What's Your Story?

We have ALL been called to serve. God gives us opportunities every day, but it's up to us to act. We can turn our eyes away and pretend that we didn't see it or, we could deny ourselves and be a servant where we are needed. What will you do? Share your story about answering God's call to serve to help encourage others in their journey.

>> Go to SevernRunner.info and choose the Stories tile. Then follow the link provided to share your own story; we will even connect you with a writer to help you tell your story.