

Great Commission Service

By Alicia Wong

Pre-Session Assignments

One week before the session, participants will take the following assignments.

Assignment One

Read Mathew 23:11; Mark 9:35; Luke 22:26–21; and then read the comments related to Mark 10:41–45 in the section **It's in the Book**. Prepare to share your answer to the following question: What does Jesus think about being a servant or the idea of service?

Assignment Two

Read John 13:1–5; then read the comments related to John 13:5–11 in the section **It's in the Book**. Your assignment this week is to wash someone's feet. Let the person know this is for an assignment and ask if you may wash his/her feet as Jesus did. (You might consider a family member.) Get a bucket, pour water into it, wash the person's feet, and dry the feet with the towel that has been wrapped around your waist. Prepare to share with the group what it felt like for both people involved in the foot-washing experience.

Assignment Three

Research ways you may serve: in the church (ask your pastor), in the United States with a mission board or international missions. Write down several ideas for each category, and be ready to share with the group.

Scripture to Memorize

For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many. Mark 10:45

Session Goal

Consistent with God's Word and in the power of the Holy Spirit—by the end of this session, disciples will understand why they need to serve God and ways in which they may offer service to Him.

Alicia Wong is assistant professor of Women's Ministry at Southwestern Seminary. She also has served as a missionary with the International Mission Board and the North American Mission Board. www.biblicalwoman.com

It's in the Book

30 minutes

Real-Life Scenario

You are at the grocery store and you see a woman in a wheelchair trying to get something off the shelf that is beyond her reach. You can easily reach it. Do you stop what you are doing and help her? Why or why not?

What comes to mind when you hear the word *service*? Do you think of military service? Service you get at a restaurant or at a store? What does *service* have to do with being a Christian?

Read Mark 10:41–45 out loud.

Studying the Passage

Verse 41. The other ten disciples were mad at James and John because the two had requested high positions to be next to Jesus.

Verse 44. slave. This Greek word refers to one totally owned by another and possessing no rights except those given by his or her master.

Assignment One Feedback

The person who completed **Assignment One** during the week can now share an answer to the following question: What does Jesus think about being a servant or the idea of service, based on three passages Scripture?

On Your Own

In the space below, describe a recent situation where you missed the opportunity to be a servant to someone near you.

How Does Jesus Demonstrate Being a Servant?

Read John 13:5–11 out loud.

Studying the Passage

Verse 5. wash the disciples' feet. Washing someone's feet was considered work for Gentile slaves and women, not work for a respected teacher. **Tied it.** The towel was wrapped around his body.

Verse 11. Not all of you are clean. Jesus already knew that Judas was going to betray Him (v. 2), and yet He still washed Judas' feet. Doing so must not have been easy for Jesus, but He knew His purpose here on earth (see v. 3).

Assignment Two Feedback

The person who completed **Assignment Two** during the week can now share what it was like to wash another person's feet.

Discussion Questions

What do you think Jesus was trying to teach by washing the disciples' feet?

Read John 13:12–17 out loud.

Studying the Passage

Verse 12. Resumed His place. Jesus changed His posture from sitting at the table (v. 4) to one serving those at the table.

Verse 14. you also ought to wash. Jesus was crystal clear about what He required of His disciples. He wanted them to be humble enough to serve one another.

Verse 15. you also should do just as I did. In Galatians 5:12–13, Paul wrote that we are given freedom, but we are not to use that freedom as an opportunity for the flesh. Instead, through love, we are supposed to serve one another.

Verse 16. not greater. Jesus pointed out that a slave is not greater than a master. Basically, no one person is better than another. But sometimes, even as disciples, we act as if we are better than others.

Discussion Questions

Even as a disciple, what keeps you from serving others?

Assignment Three Feedback

The person who completed **Assignment Three** during the week can now share various opportunities of service in the church, nation and world.

On Your Own

Write in the space provided three ways you can serve others now. When the group is done, you can share your answers and perhaps choose one activity that you can do together as a group to serve others.

Home Church

Neighborhood/City

U.S.

Internationally

Heart and Hands

8 minutes

Read again the **Real-Life Scenario** near the beginning of the lesson. Consider whether your answers have changed during the session.

Be silent for two or three minutes. Thank Jesus for His sacrifice and for the gospel. Adore Him for His glorious reign on the throne of heaven. Then ask the Holy Spirit to reveal to you:

1. A way the Scriptures you studied today will change your heart (the real you) for the glory of Christ.
2. Or a way those Scriptures will lead you to stop doing something in your life for the glory of Christ.
3. Or a way those Scriptures will lead you to do something for the glory of Christ.

Write what the Spirit reveals to you below, and then be ready to share what you have written with the group.

Since Last Week

5 minutes

Give the group this update: "In our last session I made a commitment to. . . . I want to let you know how that turned out. On that same issue I think the Holy Spirit now is leading me to . . ."

Grace-Filled Accountability

5 minutes

Disciples can agree on a way to hold one another accountable. Confessing faults with other disciples allows them to offer grace, insights, and encouragement. Even more important is confession to Christ, the source of true forgiveness and cleansing.

Planning for Evangelism, Missions, and Service

5 minutes

Groups of disciples always are making preparations for evangelism, missions, and service. Use these minutes to work on the next plan.

Prayer

7 minutes

Every disciple will pray aloud, offering praise to Jesus, thanking Him specifically for His gracious acts, making heartfelt confession, committing to actions flowing from the Bible study, praying toward evangelism locally and globally, and interceding for others as prompted by the Holy Spirit.

At Home: Nail It Down

Being a servant to others was important to Jesus. In Mark 10:45, Jesus said that He did not come to “be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many.” As we serve the Lord, we need to remember that it is not about making us feel good about ourselves (although we will be blessed; see John 13:17).

Serving should be about obedience and following Christ’s example. We are to serve with humility because of our gratefulness for what Christ did for us. We are to serve consistently because Jesus consistently put others first before Himself.

He demonstrated for the disciples in John 13:4–16 what it means to serve others. He even included someone who was going to betray Him.

Paul reminded us in Philippians 2:6–8 that we are to have an attitude like Christ Jesus “who, though He was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.”

The reason we serve is so people will be pointed to Christ and what He did. “Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that He might bring us to God.” (1 Peter 3:18).

However you decide to serve Jesus in the days ahead, be sure to do it with the right heart. Whatever task, trip or project you choose, make sure you bring people to Jesus. May you continually share Christ with those around you and those at the ends of the earth.

Follow up Question

What ways would you suggest we serve others together (i.e., a short-term mission trip, a service project, a witnessing opportunity)?

The Making Disciples curriculum is a gift from Southwestern Seminary to those who, for the glory of the Father and in the power of the Spirit, will spend a lifetime embracing the full supremacy of the Son, responding to His kingly reign in all of life, inviting Christ to live His life through them, and joining Him in making disciples among all peoples.