



Sermon Discussion Questions

Sunday, November 20, 2011
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Michael Flake - Davidson
Closing Loopholes

Topic: Be Like Jesus: Serve

Note to Group Leaders:

This is the final sermon in this series. Each campus treated this sermon a little differently but the questions below combine the services and cover them both. Use the questions you find most appropriate for your group.

Introduce it:

In the Lake Norman area there are many situations in which you will find yourself in a dilemma, wondering what decision to make to best honor Christ. Do you go to the wedding of a gay friend knowing that God does not ordain gay marriage? Do I go to my best friend's bachelor party at the local strip joint though I'm married and he is about to get married? Do I invite myself to be the designated driver for my neighbors that are planning to get drunk or is this promoting their drunkenness?

Keeping in mind that the goal of this sermon series has been to encourage us to stay as close to our Savior as we can, discuss as a group what you would do in these situations OR have others in the group tell a situation they have found themselves in and have the group give insight into what they would do and why.

Revisit it: learn the passage preached on.

Read 1 Corinthians 11:1 and John 13:1-17

Paul tells us in 1 Corinthians to "follow my example as I follow the example of Jesus Christ." What do we learn in the first few verses of John 13 that Jesus has done for his disciples all the way to the end?

What are all the ways you can think of that Jesus has loved his disciples up until this point? List as many as you can think of and even turn to passages that tell of these things.

At a typical dinner, there were servants that came in and washed the feet of those eating. At this dinner, there were no servants. Who would you have expected to wash the feet of those in the room? Why was it so disturbing to Peter for Jesus to wash his feet?

There were a thousand things Jesus could have done on his last dinner with his disciples. What are things you would have done to tell/show the disciples how much you loved them if you knew this was the last dinner?

Your final lesson is your most important lesson. How did this lesson help the disciples understand what Jesus was going to do later when he died on the cross?

Use it: don't just learn the passage but use it.

We experience real life when we love God and love other people. Serving one another is one of the greatest ways that we can love others-that is following Jesus' example. Give an example of a way that you humbled yourself in a significant way to serve another?

Go back to the Intro to this lesson and re-read each situation. After looking at this study, what would it mean to "love" and "serve" in each situation? After discussing, what determines if you are loving and serving someone?

In this passage we learn the following: Love is best displayed through service (1 John 3:18). No one is disqualified from being loved or served and no act of service is "beneath us" if we are motivated by love. Who are people that you have disqualified from love that you need to serve this week? What are acts of service you need to take on this week to love another?

In what ways do you see these acts drawing you closer to the Savior instead of further away?

Remember it: memorize a verse that helps you to remember and use it.

Memorize Paul's words in 1 Corinthians 11:1;

"Follow my example as I follow the example of Jesus Christ."

Write this on a piece of paper and put it on your mirror and in your car. Use it to begin discussion with your children about God's desire for us to serve others.