

Developing to Serve Others
August 28-September 3, 2011

PRAYER: Begin with a few moments of sharing thanks and praises in prayer.

Leaders, it's your call; you may choose to incorporate more information/scriptures as time allows for your small group lesson. Serving God by doing something He wants done is a way of expressing your love for Him. Serving another person by meeting a need in his or her life is likewise an expression of love. As you begin to serve one another and serve outsiders together, your small group will acquire a deeper richness that you could have by being involved only in a Bible study and pray.

What is one thing you do that gives you great pleasure?

What is one thing you are good at doing?

Maybe you don't think you have much to offer as a servant of God. But He has entrusted you with gifts, abilities, and passions that no other person can match. Jesus told a story to explain how servant hood works in His kingdom. Like most of His stories, this one uses shock value and a sense of humor to make a point:

Read: Matthew 25:14-29

1. This story sets up a contrast between the first two servants and the third. They handled the masters' "talents" (amounts of money) differently. How did their behavior differ?
2. The servants handled the money differently because they saw their master differently. What did the third servant believe about his master (verse 24-25)?

What do you think the first two servants believed about their master?

3. Another difference may have been the way they viewed themselves. Put yourself in their shoes. What view of yourself would motivate you to take risks to invest your master's money?

What view of yourself would motivate you to hide your master's money in the ground?

4. In what ways are you like the first two servants? In what ways are you like the third servant?

5. The master entrusted “talents” (amounts of money) to his servants. What are some resources that God has entrusted to you?
6. God has entrusted you with a portion of his resources in order to do his work on earth. Investing these resources takes time, effort, courage, trust in God, and many other qualities. What are the main challenges you face as you think about using the resources God has entrusted to you?

PLAN for ACTION:

Right here in your group you can start using the resources God has given you.

1. How can each of you best contribute to your group? It's sometimes hard for a person to see what he or she has to offer; it's easier to see other's strengths. So pool your thoughts. For each group member, discuss together what you think this person would be good at.
2. Who in your group has a heart for prayer? Who has a flair for social events and celebrations? Who is good at organization and details? Who has a heart for outsiders?
3. As the group discusses each member's strengths, it's up to that member to step out and consider where they could plug in and use their abilities and giftedness for kingdom work.
4. How can this group pray for you this week?

To view the complete teaching from the Sunday services go to www.centralcommunity.org/media/index.html