

YOU AS SERVANT

(a lesson series on servant leadership)

How to Use This Series

If a cell group or small group meeting can be divided into four sections—Welcome, Worship, Word, and Work—then this pamphlet only helps leaders on the Word and Work aspects. This will enable leaders to be creative in how they want to open their meetings.

Each lesson will have an introduction, points to talk about, and suggested questions for discussions. In each point in the lesson, the leader can choose from among the provided questions what to ask to the group for discussion. Because the Word section is geared toward being finished in 45 minutes, I suggest that only one question per point is dealt with. But of course, if there is enough time, the leader has the prerogative to ask more questions for discussion.

The monthly attendance sheet at the end will help the leaders monitor their small group/s. This will also help the leaders keep track of who are in need of encouragement and prayer.

This series is written by William Mular © 2015.

Lesson 1

Your Calling as a Servant

Bible reading:

Jer 1:5-7; John 15:16; Acts 20:28; 1 Tim 1:12; Eph. 3:7-8

Objective:

At the end of this lesson, members should be able to understand about their calling as servant leaders and be challenged to serve in the kingdom of God.

Introduction

Can you think of any greater privilege than to be called as a leader in the church of Jesus Christ? The church is His body, His bride, the temple of His Spirit, His flock, His army, and His family. Can you think of any greater responsibility than leading in His church? Gods words had been laid before us, so that we may know the details of our calling.

I. You are Chosen by God (Jer 1:5-7, John 15:16; Acts 20:28)

We are chosen by God Himself before our birth. Jeremiah 1:5-7 clearly tells us this. Jesus Christ also chooses every single one in His flock (John 15:16). The Holy Spirit empowers us to become overseers and shepherds of God's people (Acts 20:28). All Christians who have been redeemed by the blood of Christ are

called to participate in the commission to make disciples. We are all predestined to do good works (Eph 2:10).

*How do we know that we are chosen and called by God?
How does it feel to be called by the highest authority in the universe?*

II. Counted Faithful and Trustworthy (1 Tim 1:12)

It is a most wonderful thought that Jesus Christ counts us trustworthy. He trusts us to be faithful. Jesus knows all our weaknesses and limitations. He knows even the things that we hide from others about ourselves. And yet, He entrusts His own work to us. He trusts that we will be faithful to Him. He has chosen us and put us in the ministry.

*What do you think does Jesus see in you that He trusts you and counts you as faithful?
How can you be assured that you will be faithful and trustworthy?*

III. Called to Minister by God's Grace (Eph 3:7-8)

God has showered His grace upon us and made us servant ministers. God is merciful to us, and He wants us to use us as instruments of grace to others, so that they too can receive the same mercy we received from Him. This can happen not on our own strength or talents (Zech 4:6). We can become channels of God's blessings to others through the gifts the Holy Spirit gives

us. Just as we are saved by grace (Eph 2:10), we also minister by grace.

What graces have you received from God that you are also able to share to others?

What gifts have you received from God that are greatly needed by the church?

Application

What is the most appropriate response to the knowledge we have about the origin, authority, and the grace of God in our calling. Are we ready to heed? When? God wants us to act now: “Today if you hear His voice, do not harden your heart” (Heb 13:18; 12:4-7).

Homework

In preparation for next week’s meeting, read 2 Corinthians 2:4-7; 12:9-10; and Acts 1:8.

Lesson 2

Your Power as a Servant

Bible reading:

2 Corinthians 2:4-7; 12:9-10; Acts 1:8

Objective:

At the end of this lesson, members should be able to know and realize their God-given power as servants.

Introduction

Many Christians, although they are already assured of their upward call, still hesitate to pursue it due to fear. Even the twelve disciples of Jesus Christ experienced these doubts and weaknesses (Matt 17:14-20). As servants we should realize that we are empowered by God to accomplish what He calls us to do. This will enable us to labor with confidence.

I. Power, Presence, and Grace of God

The One who calls us is also He who is all-powerful. As Jesus Himself said to His disciples, all authority in heaven and on earth is His (Matt 28:18). We minister to other people as messengers of the King of kings. He does not send us away without any help (Acts 1:7-8). The following verses are important: (a) we are given the presence and power of God (2 Cor 2:4-7); (b) we are given the grace and power of Jesus Christ

(2 Cor 12:9-10); and (c) we are given the presence and power of the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:8).

Why is the empowerment of the Holy Spirit important (Acts 1:8)?

Do you have any testimony of how God has helped you accomplish His will?

II. God's Assurance of Victory (2 Cor 2:14)

Servants called by God never know defeat as a permanent reality. Although there may be failures along the way, God's purposes in us and through us will not be thwarted by any forces or by anyone in the world (Job 42:2; Isa 14:27). He will and can use us in accordance with His will and purposes. As Paul says, we are more than conquerors (Rom 8:31-39). Victory awaits those who are called by God.

Realizing the assurance of victory from God, how does it affect the way you face problems?

What are the things in life that you think you cannot accomplish for God?

III. We Are Given...

FAITH, to sustain us in the ministry (2 Cor 4:13; Eph 6:16)

THE LOVE OF CHRIST, to compel us in the ministry (2 Cor 5:14)

HOPE OF THE RESURRECTION, to sustain us (2 Cor 4:14; 1 Thess 4:16-17)

Faith will sustain us. By faith we believe in the promises of God and act according to what the Word of God admonishes us to do. The love of Christ is the foundation of whatever we do. What we do is a response to what He has done for us. Finally, the resurrection sustains us by giving us hope that someday we will be resurrected and be with Jesus Christ (Phil 3:10-11).

In times of trouble and suffering, how does faith sustain you?

How can the love of Christ compel us to do our ministry?

Application

Even after realizing the power and authority Christians possess in doing God's work, what are other things that serve as hindrances for many Christians to serve? How can the church encourage the many pew-warming members to contribute to the work of the kingdom?

Homework

In preparation for next week's lesson, read Matthew 28:19-20 and Ephesians 4:11-12.

Lesson 3

Purpose of the Servant

Bible reading:

Matthew 28:19-20; Ephesians 4:11-12

Objective:

At the end of this lesson, members should be able to know the purpose of being a servant leader and ways of living it.

Introduction

God's calling has a purpose. Even when God called the Israelites to be His chosen people, He had a plan for them to be "a kingdom of priests" (Exo 19:6) who will serve as His agents in revealing His glory to the nations. When God redeemed each one of us, it was not so that we can only enjoy the benefits of salvation. We are all called to do good works (Eph 2:10). The only questions are: What good works are each one of us called to do? What is the purpose of God's call in our lives?

I. Called to be an Example of the Truth that God Saves (1 Tim 1:16)

God has been patient. He showed His unlimited patience towards each one of us who are Christians. Our lives are a living testimony that God can work miracles in transforming sinners to become children of God, holy and righteous. In the same way

that God worked in our lives through the ministry of other Christians, God is also working in the lives of others through us. We are a living example of His unlimited patience, mercy, and saving grace.

In what ways can we be intentional in being examples to others?

How can we be a pattern of good works in doctrine and life to others?

II. Called to Go and Make Disciples (Matt 28:19-20)

This is the great commission of Jesus Christ to His followers. It is one of the most important passages in the Bible because it is a command given to all who claim themselves to be disciples of Jesus Christ. As Christians, we are called to GO and MAKE DISCIPLES. We are not only called to follow Christ wherever He goes. We are also called to leave His company in order to serve others. In short, disciples should also become apostles (“sent ones”).

Who are you called to be an apostle for?

What personal specific gifts can you use to fulfill His commission through you?

III. Called to Present Others as Perfect in Jesus Christ (Col 1:28)

God wants every person to be reached and presented perfect before Him. Perfect here means mature and complete. This is part of our calling and purpose, and perhaps even our supreme objective. The ultimate goal of mission is not evangelism (or to ask people to accept Christ as their Lord and Savior). The ultimate goal of mission is to make disciples who are also like Christ. This means that our calling is not only to make wishy-washy disciples. When we make disciples, our responsibility is to guide them towards full maturity. This is a massive responsibility.

How can we accomplish the task of presenting mature disciples to Jesus Christ?

How can we know if our disciples are maturing?

Application

Now that we know the purpose of our calling as servants of God, we should focus on working in the kingdom of God. Whatever we are called to do and accomplish, we are assured that we are empowered to do them. Also, whatever we are called to do and accomplish are important. God has entrusted us with great things that cannot be taken for granted or done half-heartedly. We must reflect about the things that God has entrusted us, and perhaps repent if we have not been faithful and committed to doing them with our best.

Homework

In preparation for next week's lesson, read Romans 12:1-2; Matthew 6:33; 2 Timothy 2:16; 3:16; and Titus 1:6-9

Lesson 4

The Servant's Personal Life

Bible reading:

Romans 12:1-2; Matthew 6:33; 2 Timothy 2:16; 3:16; Titus 1:6-9

Objective:

At the end of this lesson, members should be able to realize what would be the daily walk and personal life of a servant.

Introduction

How we live and walk day after day as a servant must be in accordance with the Word of God. What is expected of us are obedience, consistency, and faithfulness. We must follow Him and do exactly what He says. It is through this that we can have the most fulfilling and fruitful life and ministry imaginable.

I. Our Daily Spiritual Work

As servants of Jesus Christ, our Christian walk must be guided by three important things: (1) love to Christ, rooting in Scripture, and ceaseless prayer. These three are absolute essentials as we live and minister in the kingdom of God. We must always walk in and like Christ, and always seek His kingdom and His righteousness first (Matt 6:33). We must study and obey the Scriptures daily, live by it, and proclaim it as well (2 Tim 2:15; 3:16; 1 Tim 4:15; Josh 1:8). We must pray daily, as

Christ and the apostles taught us to pray (Luke 11:1-2; Eph 3:14-19; 6:18).

In the light of the three essentials in your daily walk, can you evaluate your present status?

What is your weakest among the three? How are you going to improve it?

II. Our Personal Lives

God is not only interested in our spirits but He is vitally interested in our whole personal life. He is interested in our body and our mind (Rom 12:1-2; 1 Cor 6:19-20; 2:16; Phil 4:8-9), and our conduct (1 Tim 3:1-7; Titus 1:6-9; 2 Cor 6:17-18). Basically, God's servants must be holistically transformed and renewed every day. We must not neglect our health and appearance, our speech and action, our reasoning capability and emotional stability. All of these things can be used by God or can be detrimental to His work, if we are not careful about them.

How can you serve through your body and mind?

What aspects of your personal life do you think needs more help in order to be the person God wants you to be?

III. Our Personalities

God created each one of us to be unique. There are no two persons who are the same throughout. In our ministries and service to others, whether we care to admit or not, what we

do, how we do what we do, and why we do what we do, are influenced by our unique personalities. This is not bad at all. This is how God designed us. It just means that because God created us in this and not that way, He created us to fulfill specific tasks in line with our personal strengths and weaknesses. An awareness and understanding of who we are, what we want to do, and how we do things, is important as we seek to serve others.

Are you an introvert or an extrovert? What ministries are appropriate for you?

What do you like doing the most in the ministry? Why do you think are you drawn towards it?

Application

Being a servant leader, our daily walk and personal life are very important to God. In order for us to be qualified as a faithful and obedient servant, we must live consistently according to the Word of God. But also, we must realize our own personalities. In short, we must know ourselves. We should know our strengths and weaknesses, and address them accordingly. Each one of us must pause for a bit and ask ourselves: “In the light of who I am and where I am now, how is God going to use me?”

Monthly Attendance

Leader: _____

Month: _____

Members	Dates				
1.					
2.					
3.					
4.					
5.					
6.					
7.					
8.					
9.					
10.					
11.					
12.					
Visitors/Guests					
1.					
2.					
3.					
4.					
5.					