

Before the Lesson

Read the Scriptures and overview below before your LIFE Group meets this week.

Scripture Passages: Colossians 3 and John 13:1-20

Success looks different to different people, and there are multiple philosophies on how to measure success. For some, success is found in possessions; for others, a promotion or climb up the corporate ladder. Still for others, success is measured by verbal accolades and affirmations. But for those who truly want to be successful in God's eyes, there is but one affirmation needed, and it is from Matthew 25:23 which says, *Well done, good and faithful servant*. That's right! If you want to dress for success, the clothing that will best identify you as a successful servant at home, work, play, and in the eyes of God is the humble attitude of service and genuine love for others.

The heart of a servant is a calling for all believers; it is a choice we must all make every day and in every situation. It is of great significance to God, and it honors Him. So how have you been dressing recently? Are you wearing clothes fit for the son or daughter of the King of Kings, or are you wearing the worldly clothes of pride, selfishness, and covetousness? This week Pastor McKinley said in his message: "Service is the uniform of the Christian life in the marketplace and in the home." So are you dressing for success, or do you need to make an appearance on *What Not to Wear*? Perhaps it's time to clean out your closet.

How do you serve from where you are?

Group Discussion

- Read Colossians 3:12-14 and discuss the qualities of a servant in the marketplace and examples of how you can display these heart attitudes at work, home, or with friends.
- Read Philippians 2:3-8 and Ephesians 6:5-8. What do these verses say about being a servant?
- Pastor McKinley talked about the role of mothers and their heart for service. If you're a mom, explain practically some things God has shown you to do when you are called to serve but don't really feel like it.
- Recall John 13:1-20 that you read prior to your group meeting. Discuss the impact of Jesus' attitude and what that means to you personally. How could you show this kind of servant attitude at your workplace, and how do you think it would affect the people you interact with daily?

- Read Matthew 20:20-28. (You can compare this with Mark 10:35-45 if you would like to.) The mother of James and John essentially asked Jesus to give her sons a “promotion.” The idea of significance and value in the public forum was prominent even in Biblical times. First, what was the significance of Jesus’ reference to himself as “the son of man” in verse 28 in relation to servant leadership? What was Jesus’ explanation and response when he corrected the misguided thoughts of this mother and her sons?
- A servant heart has an outward impact but it is derived from an inward change. Talk about the difference between serving from the heart and serving for show. (See also Matthew 6:1-4.)
- Talk about some things that help make this inward transformation possible. (See Romans 12:1-2, Colossians 3:2, Psalm 119:105, Hebrews 4:12, Ephesians 6:18, Isaiah 2:3, Ezekiel 36:26.)
- In his message Pastor McKinley said, One of the greatest life choices you can make is to be a servant-leader called a parent (aunt, uncle, or mentor).” Are you making an impact in the lives of the children who are in your sphere of influence? How are you doing that? What is keeping you from making a greater impact? Is it busyness, fear, apathy, or something else?

Further Study

Read The Parable of the Talents in Matthew 25:14-30 and ask yourself if there are any areas of doubt, fear, or inadequacy in your heart. These may be hindering you in the area of servant leadership.

A servant-leader encourages and blesses others from a heart that has been transformed. How is your heart function currently? Review the verses below that you discussed in your group, then pray and ask God to show you where adjustments on the inside need to be made.

- Romans 12:1-2
- Colossians 3:2
- Psalm 119:105
- Hebrews 4:12
- Ephesians 6:18
- Isaiah 2:3
- Ezekiel 36:26

How can I serve from where I am?

Is what I do impacting the Kingdom of God?

Am I living in “perfect harmony” with those I know by putting on Colossians 3:12-14?