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Tools for Discipleship – Service

Galatians 6:1-4; Matthew 20:20-28; John 13:3-17
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Using This Study

❶ EXAMINE His Word

What does God SAY? Open your time with prayer. The words God uses to communicate matters, so go back and pay close attention to the details that are emphasized or repeated in the passage.

❷ EXPLORE His Word

What does God MEAN? Asking questions of the text helps surface how the details relate to the message God wants to communicate.

❸ EMBRACE His Word

Why does it MATTER to me? Embrace God by responding to what you discover in His word in faith and obedience.



As we help each other grow in our relationships with Christ, we continue to practice good spiritual disciplines as our tools for discipleship. The tool for discipleship this week is service. If we are going to reflect the character of God and be His ambassadors here on earth, then it is essential for us to be in the practice of serving others. This week we will encourage each other as we seek to serve those around us. Jesus did not come to be served but to serve. How can you better serve the people around you this week, and encourage your discipleship partner to do the same?.



EXAMINE His Word (Observation)

What does God SAY? Prayerfully note significant details and terms emphasized in these passages.

Read Galatians 6:1-4 (NET)

Brothers and sisters, if a person is discovered in some sin, you who are spiritual restore such a person in a spirit of gentleness. Pay close attention to yourselves, so that you are not tempted too. ² Carry one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. ³ For if anyone thinks he is something when he is nothing, he deceives himself. ⁴ Let each one examine his own work. Then he can take pride in himself and not compare himself with someone else.

Read Matthew 20:20-28

²⁰ Then the mother of the sons of Zebedee came to him with her sons, and kneeling down she asked him for a favor. ²¹ He said to her, "What do you want?" She replied, "Permit these two sons of mine to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your kingdom." ²² Jesus answered, "You don't know what you are asking! Are you able to drink the cup I am about to drink?" They said to him, "We are able." ²³ He told them, "You will drink my cup, but to sit at my right and at my left is not mine to give. Rather, it is for those for whom it has been prepared by my Father."

²⁴ Now when the other ten heard this, they were angry with the two brothers. ²⁵ But Jesus called them and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those in high positions use their authority over them. ²⁶ It must not be this way among you! Instead whoever wants to be great among you must be your servant, ²⁷ and whoever wants to be first among you must be your slave— ²⁸ just as the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

Read John 13:3-17

³ Because Jesus knew that the Father had handed all things over to him, and that he had come from God and was going back to God, ⁴ he got up from the meal, removed his outer clothes, took a towel and tied it around himself. ⁵ He poured water into the washbasin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to dry them with the towel he had wrapped around himself.

⁶ Then he came to Simon Peter. Peter said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?"

⁷ Jesus replied, "You do not understand what I am doing now, but you will understand after these things." ⁸ Peter said to him, "You will never wash my feet!" Jesus replied, "If I do not wash you, you have no share with me." ⁹ Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, wash not only my feet, but also my hands and my head!" ¹⁰ Jesus replied, "The one who has bathed needs only to wash his feet, but is completely clean. And you disciples are clean, but not every one of you." ¹¹ (For Jesus knew the one who was going to betray him. For this reason he said, "Not every one of you is clean.")

¹² So when Jesus had washed their feet and put his outer clothing back on, he took his place at the table again and said to them, "Do you understand what I have done for you? ¹³ You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and do so correctly, for that is what I am. ¹⁴ If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you too ought to wash one another's feet. ¹⁵ For I have given you an example—you should do just as I have done for you. ¹⁶ I tell you the solemn truth, the slave is not greater than his master, nor is the one who is sent as a messenger greater than the one who sent him. ¹⁷ If you understand these things, you will be blessed if you do them.

1. Who is involved in the text? Author, audience, main characters.
2. Where and when is this taking place? Geography and timeline.
3. What actions are carried out or commanded? Look for the verbs.
4. Is there anything repeated?
5. What is emphasized?
6. Is there anything in these passages that is related to other areas of scripture?
7. Are there things to be noted that are alike or unlike such as similes and metaphors?

🕒 EXPLORE His Word (Interpretation)

What does God MEAN?

8. How does Jesus display servant leadership?
9. Why does Jesus wash the disciples' feet?

10. In Galatians 6:3, why should we consider ourselves nothing?

11. What does it mean to carry each other's burdens? How can we do this in our lives?

12. In Galatians 6:4, why is it a good idea not to compare ourselves with others?

13. In Matthew 20, why do you think the mother of the sons of Zebedee asked for her sons to sit at Jesus' right and at his left?

③ EMBRACE His Word (Application)

Why does this MATTER to me?

14. What is the danger of everyone seeking to have the highest place of honor?

15. How can we balance ambition that produces hard work with humility and service?

16. What are some ideas that you have for practicing service this week?

17. How can we be strong leaders and still be servants?

Summarize your thoughts on the passage:

Write about what God wants you to KNOW, to FEEL, and to DO...

SERMON NOTES