

Serve Him in His Church

Who We Are series: July 19th

I. Check-In (Under 2 mins per person)

A check-in helps the group build connection, honesty, and relational awareness.

- A personal life update
- Current spiritual condition
- Challenges or victories
- Reflect on your emotions with emotional language

Finish by stating: "I'm in!"

II. Weekly Sermon Discussion (20-30 minutes)

- Engage with one another by reflecting and sharing what our Church is learning together.
- Read the scripture, and discuss what stood out to you.
- Example insights and questions are provided to help generate discussion if needed.

We grow (are perfected) as we fulfill Jesus' prayer for us: Become one!

Read John 17:21-23

On the eve of Jesus' death, He passionately prayed that we would be one. Pursuing Unity through Gathering, Serving, and Growing together is essential to our Christian maturity.

- What is the standard of oneness that Jesus prays we will experience together?
- What are the barriers and challenges of experiencing this unity?
- What are ways that you can only experience Christian growth through the challenges that come with being one with one another?
- Why is church unity a demonstration to the world of the love of Jesus?
- How is Jesus challenging you in your Christian growth through pursuing oneness within His church, and how can your group support you?

Jesus demonstrates a great and wondrous calling for us: Slaves!

Read: Philippians 2:3-7, Mark 10:42-45, Luke 17:7-10, John 13:12-17

Depending on your translation, the word that is translated as 'slave', 'servant', or 'bondservant' in Philippians 2:7, Mark 10:44, Luke 17:10, and John 13:16 is the Greek word '*doulos*' (Strong's G1401). A *doulos* is someone who belongs to another and lives under his authority without any ownership rights of their own. Jesus voluntarily places himself into this position, and calls us to join Him! The primary relationship theme between 'Jesus and us', within scripture, is that of 'Lord and *doulos*'! Jesus is referred to as 'Savior' within the New Testament 24 times, but He is referred to as 'Lord' or 'Master' 740 times! A *doulos*, is a position; 'serve', is what a *doulos*

naturally does! *Doulos* was a position voluntarily embraced by Jesus and His disciples including Paul, James, Peter, Jude, and John. Will we join them and embrace the position of *doulos*?

- How did Jesus demonstrate the heart and actions of *doulos*?
- How does the biblical reality of being a *doulos* challenge our everyday cultural mindset?
- How does the ratio of Jesus as 'Savior', versus Jesus as 'Lord' challenge your perspective of your relationship and response to Jesus?
- What are the differences between being a 'volunteer' for Christ, versus being a 'slave' of Christ? For example: A volunteer questions 'whether' they will serve, a slave questions 'where' they will serve.
- Consider this quote: 'You'll know you've matured to the highly and lofty kingdom position of slave, by how you react when you're treated like one'. How does your heart respond when you are treated as a *doulos*?
- Where are you serving? How can your group serve together? How can your group support one another in joining Jesus as slaves?

III. Share & Prayer (20-30 minutes)

Time to 'take off the mask'! Jesus doesn't want us to be hypocrites who wear masks.

- What's really going on in your life? How are you doing? How can your group pray for you?
- Are there applications from the Discussion that you need prayer support?
- How can your Group support you this week?

Have someone, or everyone, close your time out in prayer for one another.