

LIFE UPSIDE DOWN__2

Choose



**“Your attitude should
be the same that
Christ Jesus had.”
- Philippians 2:5, NLT**

**“If one of you wants
to be great,
you must be the
servant of the rest;
and if one of you
wants to be first,
you must be the slave
of the others—just
like the Son of Man,
who did not come to
be served, but to
serve and to give
his life to redeem
many people.”
- Jesus, Matt. 20:26-28**

When you woke up this morning, did you ask yourself: “How can I serve today? In my workplace, my church, my family, my daily interactions, how can I serve someone else today?” These are questions a true servant is always asking. It’s an others-focused attitude that lies at the core of a servant’s heart.

And it’s an entirely different way of living than the way most people approach their day—a life modeled after the life of Jesus. Jesus never passed up an opportunity to serve. He seized those opportunities, even sought them out, and His servant lifestyle made an eternal difference in this world. And as His followers, we’re called to do the same. Instead of asking, “What can I *get* from life or others today?” we ask, “What can I *give* to serve God and others?”

Opening Up

Describe a grade school teacher that made a big impression on you—for good or bad.

Digging In

Read Philippians 2:5-8

1. Many believe that Paul incorporated an early Christian hymn into this passage—not to raise an esoteric theological point for discussion, but rather to make a practical point about the need for Christians to get along with each other and work together in order to make a difference in the world. How does understanding who Jesus *is*—help you appreciate what Jesus *did* (the Incarnation)?
2. Jesus is the ultimate servant of all time. Have you ever wondered why Jesus did it? Why did He make such an astounding choice to be a servant? [Consider as many reasons as you can.] As a Christ-follower, what are the implications?
3. How do Jesus’ attitudes and actions described in this passage help to define the true meaning of humility?
4. Greatness often measured in terms of power, possessions, position, prestige, and/or productivity. While Jesus never condemned these things in-and-of-themselves, how does He re-define the way in which we think of them? Chose one of these five “P’s” and share a way in which, as a disciple of Jesus, you’ve had to re-frame the way you’ve thought about it.
5. A servant is “*sensitive to the needs of others.*” Most of us are so inwardly-focused and consumed with what we need, that we don’t always notice the needs of others. A servant “*takes the initiative.*” A servant “*doesn’t draw attention to him/herself in the process.*” Elaborate on these ideas and brainstorm some of your own “characteristics” of a genuine servant.

Living Out

Jesus turns the way we live life upside-down. Instead of living with a *consumer* mindset, Christ-followers live their lives as *contributors*. It’s an active and deliberate choice we’re called to make every day. Given this “mindset,” what specific changes in your attitude or actions would the Lord have you make in each of the major areas of your life—in your family, in your job, in your church family?

Lifting Up

After group discussion, allow members to respond with a time of recommitment expressed through prayer and song. (693), “Heart of a Servant,” (694) “Servant Song,” (680), “Yes, Lord, Yes.”