

Lesson 19: Serving one another

Aims for each learner:

- Be committed to use their gifts humbly, to serve each other.
- Support the church leaders and understand their responsibilities.
- Memorize 1 Peter 4:10.

Cultural clues:

- Foot washing in Muslim cultures
- Leadership issues in BMB groups.

Prepare: Towels, soap, bowls, warm water

Opening

Last week's practical task: Did you check if there was any influence from magic or holy men in your past? Did you pray with someone? If you still have worries about this, please see me privately.

Lesson 19 home study review:

Question 1: a) different; b) each; c) for service

Question 2: "Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others" (1 Peter 4:10).

Introduce today's topic: God has given us various gifts and abilities. Today we will learn how to use these gifts to serve God and serve each other. Even leaders should serve their people!

Discussion

Serving one another (Introduction & Questions 1-3)

Reflection on opening picture: Jesus washed the feet of his closest friends on the night before



he went to the cross. **Read John 13:3-5,12-17.** Then say slowly, with pauses:

"Look at the hands in this picture. Imagine they are Christ's hands."

"Look at the feet and imagine they are your feet. Christ is washing your feet!"

"How do you feel about this? Talk to your Lord now about this now, in your heart."

What were our emotions when we thought about the Lord Jesus Christ washing our feet?

Question 2: Read the question.

- In the cultures we come from, do leaders serve their followers?
- But our greatest leader Jesus Christ bent low to wash our feet. Therefore what should we do in response?
- Will leaders lose people's respect by serving them as Christ did?

See the box in Q.1. He says, "I have set you an example". We thank him for serving us, and we like him should bend low to serve each other. In the end such leaders will gain respect.

Gifts are for service (Questions 4-8)

Read 1 Peter 4:10-11 and review the memory verse (1 Peter 4:10).



- In v. 10, how should we use the gifts God has given each of us? *to serve others*
- Why do you think we should be like 'faithful stewards'? *We should be like a trustworthy manager who does not own his master's things, but uses them well on behalf of the owner.*
- Different Bible passages mention many different gifts. Which two gifts are found in verse 11?
- How should the two people in v.11 use their gifts?
- We should use our gifts for God's glory. Let's say the last part of verse 11 aloud together.

Different people have different gifts (Questions 9-10)

Question 9: Read the story in the box and the paragraph that follows.

- What did you write here? *For example: We all have strengths but we also have weaknesses. We are all 'blind' or 'crippled' in some way. Not one of us is complete and perfect by ourselves. But my weaknesses are your strengths. So we need each other in our local group of believers.*

Each of us has a gift (Questions 11-14)

Question 11: Look at the picture.

- What gift for service has God given to Fayzia?
- How did Laila help Fayzia to recognise her gift?



Question 13:

- How can we find out what are our gifts? *see the three arrow points.*
- One group member, please name one way of serving. The next member repeat that and add another way. Let's keep adding to the list to make it as long as we can. *For example: leading the meetings, teaching the Bible, playing a musical instrument, hosting the group, focused prayer, encouraging individuals, reaching out to non-believers, practical support, financial help, cooking, etc.*
- How do these different kinds of service help to build up a local group of believers?

We should use our gifts humbly (Questions 15-18)

Question 15: Read the question.

- What reasons did you write for Samir being leader of the group? What reasons against?
- How could the group help Samir develop in leadership without getting proud?

An older believer could talk with Samir about his proud attitude. Also, Samir could be given a junior responsibility under the authority of a leader. If he does it well, with a humble attitude, he could be given more responsibility later. Also, if he becomes leader he should not be alone, but in a team of two or more leaders working together.

Question 17: Read the question.

- Who is more important in God's sight, the person who preaches or the person who serves a meal?

Both are equally important. We should thank those who preach and those who serve meals.

Serving as leaders (Questions 19 -25)

Question 21: Look at the list of characteristics at the end of this question.

- Which of these leadership qualities did Jesus the Chief Shepherd show? *a), b) & e).*
- How can a Christ-like leader show these characteristics in practical ways?

Read 1 Peter 5:1-6:



- In verses 2-3, find three ways in which Christ-like leaders should be different from worldly leaders. *If in doubt, see question 22*
- What promise does verse 4 give to such leaders?
- In what ways can believers help their leaders in their difficult task?. *submit to them (v.5a), pray for them, respect them, encourage them, be grateful to them, not complain about them behind their backs.*
- In verses 5b and 6, what attitude should all of us have in using our gifts?

Question 25: Read the second paragraph.

- What did you write here?

Everyone together, read the teacher's speech bubble at the end of question 25.

E.g. The leader who serves is still a leader. They have authority to lead and the people should respect this. Their respect comes not from fear but from love. The leader serves them by sacrificing himself or herself for their benefit.

Conclusion

Obeying today's teaching:

- What difference will today's lesson make in your life?
- **Read together the practical task.**
- Do you have any ideas of ways you could serve others with your gifts?

Practise serving one another:

Take it in turns to wash one another's feet (men and women separately). You as the leader should start!
Pray together: Think again about Christ washing our feet. Ask him to show us how he wants us to serve people, and help us serve others as he has served us.