

## SESSION 3: IT'S ALL ABOUT OTHERS (SERVE)



“You don’t know what you are asking,” Jesus said. “Can you drink the cup I drink or be baptized with the baptism I am baptized with?” “We can,” they answered. Jesus said to them, “You will drink the cup I drink and be baptized with the baptism I am baptized with, but to sit at my right or left is not for me to grant. These places belong to those for whom they have been prepared.” When the ten heard about this, they became indignant with James and John. Jesus called them together and said, “You know that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” – Mark 10:38-45 NIV

James and John were seeking to gain status for themselves. As many of us might do when we see the people we work with make bold requests, the other disciples became indignant. How dare they! The disciples’ indignation was very likely motivated, at least in part, by just imagining how envious they would have been had Jesus granted the request. Neither types of thinking comes from love.

Love is not self-seeking. Jesus reframed the disciples’ ambition, explaining that those who would be great must serve others. As followers of Christ, we are to think of ourselves last, “For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” Jesus came not to be served, but to serve. He washed his disciples’ feet. He went out of his way to heal those who were ill. And ultimately, Jesus paid the price for our debt by laying down his life for us.

The world teaches us to get ahead by looking out for ourselves – our position, our status, and our goals. We all have needs to be secure, know we’re valued, and reach our goals. Jesus affirmed the disciples’ impulse to be great, but reframed greatness in the context of valuing others above ourselves. In Philippians 2:3-4, Paul goes on to say that we should not look to our own interests, but to the interests of others. The first may bring short-term success, but the second has eternal rewards.

How can we push aside our own interests? God’s promises are there to remind us that He values us and He will take care of us. Since God has our back, we are free to serve others. In fact, He wants us to partner with Him so that He can serve people through us. Read these verses:

VERSE 1

**ISAIAH 49:15**

VERSE 2

**PSALM 139:13-16**

VERSE 3

**MATTHEW 6:25-34**

One way to think about serving in a work context is that your output – the work you produce, the tone of voice you use when speaking to others, the words you speak, the pat on the back you give – is someone else’s input. When you serve others with love through your work, you contribute to a more productive, joy-filled workplace. You please God and bring Him glory.

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## FOUR WAYS YOU CAN SERVE AT WORK



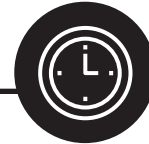
Help someone whom you see is overwhelmed with work.



Offer to pick up coffee or lunch for someone who can't get away from their desk.



Go the extra mile on the project you are working on with others on the team.



Be willing to come in a little early or stay a little late to mentor a coworker who is less experienced than you.

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## REFLECTION & APPLICATION

01

When are you most likely to focus on your own needs and goals at the expense of others?

02

In what other ways can you serve people at work – including those you work for and those who work for you?

03

What can you do to make sure you are more intentional about serving those around you?

### ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURE

VERSE 1  
JOHN 13:1-17

VERSE 2  
PHIL. 2:3-4