Sharing the Gift of Jesus B-L-E-**S**-S

Fourth Sunday of Advent   December 18, 2022

11/27   **B**egin with prayer

12/04   **L**isten to

12/11   **E**at with

12/18   Serve

12/25   **S**hare your story

1. Jesus *"came not to be served but to **serve** "* (Matt. 20:28)

2. Jesus said, *"I am among you as one who serves."* (Luke 22:27)

3. Shocking role **reversal** ; the master serves his servants!
    (Luke 12:37)

4. *"What after all, is Apollos? And what is Paul? Only servants . . ."*
    (1 Cor. 3:5a)

5. Things you need to set aside in order to serve (John 13:1-17)

    a.   Your other **responsibilities**

    b.   Your time

    c.   Your **role**

    d.   Your rights (see also Phil. 2:5-8)

6. Four ways to serve and build relationships

    a. *"Serve one another in love"* in the church (Gal. 5:13)

        i.   Serve on a ministry **team**

        ii. Behind the scenes, one on one

    b. Serve **others** in Jesus' name (Luke 9:13 compare Acts 3:6)

    c. Serve **alongside** others in the community

    d. Be **served** by **others**

On Your Own (better with others)

1. DISCUSS why it is easier to discover ways to serve others when you pray for them, listen to them and share meals together.

2. Do you think of Jesus as a servant? Why or why not?

3. READ John 2:1-11. Jesus served by miraculously providing wine for the wedding guests, few if any were his followers at that time. How many of Jesus' other miracles were for his followers only?

4. *agree/disagree*
    The mark of a Christian is one who serves others like Jesus did.

5. DISCUSS "What would it look like for your small group or church to become a community of people who are simply willing to serve?" (from the book "B.L.E.S.S." p. 111)

6. READ Mark 10:42-45. According to Jesus, what is the pathway to greatness? What practical steps can you take on that pathway?

7. READ 1 Peter 4:10-11. Spiritual gifts can be grouped under categories of serving gifts and speaking gifts. Do you understand spiritual gifts and are you working in your area of giftedness?

    YES   NO   IDK   Do you want to learn more about this?
                                    (text "spiritual gifts" to 503-999-4160)