

DISCIPLE

THE JOURNEY OF SPIRITUAL GROWTH



Bridge City
CHURCH

Part 3: From the Napkin to the Apron

April 28, 2026



CONVERSATION GUIDE



SMALL GROUPS

Throughout this series, we've talked about defining our relationship with Jesus and living it out in community within the local church. Now we take another step in that process: understanding that discipleship is not only about believing and belonging, but also about serving. Following Jesus requires a shift in posture—from a mindset focused on what we receive to a life focused on how we can contribute and serve others.

In **John 13:12–17 (NLT)**, Jesus models this principle by washing His disciples' feet and then telling them to do the same. He presents Himself not only as Teacher, but as an example. This act reveals that service is not optional in the life of a disciple, but a direct expression of obedience and spiritual maturity. Serving like Jesus requires humility, willingness, and intentional action, reflecting His character in the way we treat others.

After washing their feet, he put on his robe again and sat down and asked, "Do you understand what I was doing? You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and you are right, because that's what I am. And since I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash each other's feet. I have given you an example to follow. Do as I have done to you. I tell you the truth, slaves are not greater than their master. Nor is the messenger more important than the one who sends the message. Now that you know these things, God will bless you for doing them.

John 13:12–17 (NLT)



LET'S TALK ABOUT IT

1. In **John 13:12–17 (NLT)**, Jesus not only teaches with words, but models service through concrete actions; what does this reveal about what it truly means to follow Him in our daily lives?

2. In ***Ephesians 2:10 (NLT)***, we are reminded that we were created in Christ Jesus to do good works that God prepared in advance for us; as you look at your life, in what moments have you seen that serving others has also been part of your spiritual growth?
3. When you have the opportunity to serve, what usually holds you back or makes you hesitate to take that step? What specific change would you need to make to move from a passive attitude to an active willingness to serve?

A disciple doesn't just follow Jesus... they serve like Jesus.

MAKE IT PRACTICAL

Don't just follow Jesus. Serve like Jesus:

1. **Decide to serve.** Identify a situation where you would normally take a comfortable or passive position and intentionally choose to serve, even if it's not expected of you. What concrete decision can you make this week to put others first?
2. **Find your place.** Reflect on what God has already placed in your hands—your skills, time, experience, or resources. Choose a specific way to use that to benefit someone else this week. Serving is not about doing everything, but about being faithful with what you already have.
3. **Start today.** Think of a concrete opportunity already in front of you to serve, even if it seems small or unnoticed. Take that step today with the right attitude—not seeking recognition, but reflecting the heart of Jesus. Transformation begins when you choose to act without waiting for the perfect moment.

PRAYER

"Lord, thank You because Jesus didn't just teach us with words, but with His example of service. Thank You because in Him we see a different way of living, marked by humility and love for others. Forgive me for the times I've sought to be served instead of serving. Help me this week to reflect Your character through concrete actions and to live with a genuine willingness to serve."

TIPS

- Many decisions of faith begin with changes in attitude more than with big visible actions.
- If you don't know where to start, begin by serving in simple ways; consistency builds character.
- Over time, you'll discover that serving not only impacts others, but also transforms your own life.



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Dream Team

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