Servanthood

The New Testament concept of servanthood/serving: The Greek verbs and nouns are translated serve, servant, minister, deacon, help, care for, and do the work.

1. **Who is a servant?**

a. **Jesus Christ** came as a servant.

Mark 10:45 “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."

Philippians 2:7 “but Jesus made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.”

Jesus was humble, not demanding. He didn’t order people around.

1. **Christians** are servants of Jesus.

1 Peter 2:16 “live as servants of God.” John 12:26 “Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me.”

1. **Timothy** **is our example of a servant.** He served the Apostle Paul and the Ephesus church.

Philippians 2:22 “You know that Timothy has proved himself, because as a son with his father he has served with me in the work of the gospel.”

1. Christians are servants to **each other**.

Galatians 5:13 “serve one another in love.” *Disciples were always arguing “Who is the greatest?”*

**d**. A servant is one who **meets** the **needs** of those over and under them.

1 Peter 5:2 “Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, serving as overseers--not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not greedy for money, but eager to serve.”

1. **What are the characteristics of a good servant?**
2. **Obedient** to his master.

Colossians 3:22 “Slaves, obey your earthly masters in everything; and do it, not only when their eye is on you and to win their favor, but with sincerity of heart and reverence for the Lord.”

1. **Works** with all his heart. Hard worker

Colossians 3:23 “Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men.”

1. **Meets** the basic needs of those he is serving.

Matthew 24:45 “Who then is the faithful and wise servant, whom the master has put in charge of the servants in his household to give them their food at the proper time?” *Illustration: Jesus washed His disciples’ feet. In His day that was a basic need.*

1. Wisely uses the **resources** the master gives him.

Matthew 25:14-21 “After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. 20 The man who had received the five talents brought the other five. `Master,' he said, `you entrusted me with five talents. See, I have gained five more.' MT 25:21 "His master replied, `Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness! “ *A good servant is a good manager.*

1. Serves others as if he is serving his **master**. Stewardship

Ephesians 6:7 “Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not men.”

1. **Communicates** the master’s **message** – regardless of the response.

Luke 14:16-24 parable of the great banquet Servants gave the invitation which was rejected.

3. **How is Teen Challenge an opportunity for servanthood?**

1. As leaders, we must serve our staff:

1) Be concerned for their **basic needs**. 1 Pet. 5:2 “Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care.”

A shepherd cares for the basic needs of his sheep. It is hard to focus on your work if you are worried about having enough to feed your family.

2) Be generous, not **greedy**. 1 Peter 5:2 “not greedy for money”

3) Resist the temptation to **exalt** ourselves. 1 Peter 5:3 “not lording it over those entrusted to you” “It’s not my program/ministry, it’s God’s program and it’s our program.”

1. Be an **example**. 1 Peter 5:3 “but being examples to the flock”
2. As staff, we must serve our leaders:

1) Be **accountable**/**trustworthy.** Can you be trusted to complete the job?

* 1. Be **faithful**/**reliable.** Do you do your best, or only what is required?
  2. Be **obedient**/**respectful.** We can be obedient and respectful even if we do not agree with the leader.

1. **As leaders and staff, we must serve students:**

1) When we serve **students**, we are serving **Jesus**. Try to meet their basic needs, personal needs, physical needs, and spiritual needs.

Don’t expect to be served. Don’t treat students like your personal servants.

Matthew 25:34-40 35 For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, 36 I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.' 40 "The King will reply, `I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.”

1. We serve them with **love**. Galatians 5:13 “ serve one another in love”

How can you connect with students on a personal level? Do the students sense we love them?

1. We must be **kind** and **gentle** to those under our care. Show appreciation.

Being kind is not based on the responses of the students. They may be rebellious and disrespectful.

2 Timothy 2:24 “And the Lord's servant must not quarrel; instead, he must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful. 25 Those who oppose him he must gently instruct, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth,”

1. We serve by being a humble **example**. Work with students. Don’t just supervise them.

John 13:15 “I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. Jesus washed the disciples feet.”

1. God will **reward** those who serve Him.

Colossians 3:24 “since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.”

4. **How do students from a background of addiction view servanthood?**

a. I will **serve** if I can get something out of it.

1. How can I meet another person’s **needs** when I can’t meet my own?
2. I want to be a **master**, not a servant.
3. Servants are **weak**. I’m better than that.
4. Servants let people **walk** over them – not me!

**5. How can we help Teen Challenge students develop the core value of servanthood?**

a. Show them Jesus was the **best** **servant**.

1. Teach them servanthood is an **attitude** of **humility** and willingness to **work**. *(do any job.)*
2. Serve them like **Jesus** would.
3. Urge them to serve their fellow students by **encouraging**, **listening**, and **praying**.

*Be an example of servanthood.*

**Servanthood: meeting the needs of those over and under us Example: Timothy**

**6. In what areas do I need to become better at serving? Serve the students and my leaders like I would serve Jesus.**

**Be willing to do the jobs I don’t like.**

**Write down at least one answer**