

adult



Lesson 1 / March 3, 2019

Serve with Humility

By Doug Schmidt

for use as
STEP 1



Lesson 1

Focus:

Serving with humility is the hallmark of Jesus' disciples.

Lesson 1

Bible Basis:

Luke 14:7-14

Lesson 1

Memory Verse:

"For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted." —Luke 14:11

Students will discuss how to humbly serve others in Jesus' name.

OPENING ACTIVITY: *Meeting Needs*

Ask you students to list all the service opportunities that exist in your church, splitting them up into two groups: projects that focus on internal needs, and then those which serve the needs of the community. Talk about which list is longer and if the list of external needs should be longer than the list of internal needs.

OPENING STORY: [Read aloud or makes copies for your students.]

CHURCH DONATES TO SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM DEBT

More than 200 students now have access to hot lunches in the Royse City Independent School District in Texas after a congregation paid off thousands of dollars in lunch debt that had kept those students from getting access to substantial meals.

"If the church does not impact the community the church is in, then the church isn't doing its job," said Pastor Chris Everson. "With us having the opportunity to make an impact, then we are doing what Christ has called us to do to—serve the least of these."

Everson explained that his 200-member church has a tradition of donating their Christmas Eve offerings to charity. Last year, the church split the offerings between a nonprofit and a nearby elementary school to help students get out of lunch debt.

According to Everson, when a student in the district is \$25 or more past due in lunch payments, that student no longer gets a hot meal from the school. They can still receive a turkey or ham sandwich, a piece of fruit, and milk. Adi Bryant, the city's chief communications officer, also said that 40 percent of the district's approximately 6,000 students receive free or reduced-price lunches as part of the National School Lunch Program.

"It really broke my heart to see there were students who were trying to learn, students who were trying to get through the day," Everson said. "Knowing the school did what they could to provide for them, but you need more than just a sandwich and a carton of milk to make it through the rest of the school day."

Recognizing the difficulties some families have in securing lunch for their children, Everson said he approached his church and asked if they could help the entire school district—and they agreed.

The church raised more than \$10,000 for the cause and gave the money to the school district near Christmas. The donation paid off debts for students who were \$20 or more behind in payments—that represented 226 families totaling around \$6,000. The remainder of the donation will go toward assisting other students in the future.

“We didn’t have to cry out and ask for this help; they saw that families needed support and they stepped in and did it,” Bryant said of the church’s quiet donation which the district chose to announce on Monday.

She explained that she believes the church’s donation has taken on the burden off the families who were in debt.

“I think it takes a little bit of the burden off of them when you feel behind on something and someone takes that away,” Bryant explained. “You have a fresh start and it’s a wonderful feeling. This is for any student’s family who may have fallen behind on their meal accounts and it could happen to anybody.”

Ask your students to form small groups to discuss their answers to these questions.

- **Describe a time when someone humbly served you. How did those actions impact your relationship with that person?**
- **How did being served with humility impact your faith?**
- **Did it motivate you to do the same for others? Explain your answer.**

Let’s take a look at how Jesus encouraged His followers to assume positions of humility in order to better be able to serve others.

(When you are finished with the questions, go on to Step 2 in your *Adult Teacher’s Guide*.)

News Source:

<https://www.christianpost.com/news/church-pays-off-lunch-debt-for-entire-school-district-more-than-200-students-get-better-meals.html>

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HUMBLE SERVICE

Sometimes churches (and Christians) can become so preoccupied with their own needs that they have little motivation to serve people outside of their walls. To break down these barriers, Christlike humility is absolutely essential.

About 12 years ago, my church experienced a major shift from being congregation-centric to externally focused. In fact, they changed their motto to say, "To serve people toward Jesus." It took a few months, but eventually the people in the church saw how the Holy Spirit used our serving people in the community—especially those who could never pay them back—to build bridges for the Gospel.

Ask your students to return to the groups they had in Step 1 to discuss these questions.

- **Who are the marginalized people in your community?**
- **Why is it important to serve people in ways that are meaningful to *them*, though not necessarily to you?**
- **How can you get your heart ready to serve others with humility?**

Close the class in prayer, asking God for everyone to have a Holy Spirit-infused humility to spur on the type of service that is not only honoring to Him but blesses those who are served and increases receptivity to the Gospel.

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THE BIBLE IN THE NEWS

A plan to revive the Dead Sea is happening in Israel:

<http://www.bpnews.net/52053/15-billion-plan-might-revive-dying-dead-sea>