WEEK 8

SERVE ONE ANOTHER



PRIMARY SCRIPTURES

Galatians 5:13–14; John 13:1–17

BIG TRUTH

Christian freedom bends low in love, following the Lord who washed His disciples' feet. Because Christ has freely loved and served us, we are called to humbly serve one another in love.

PREPARE: READ AND OBSERVE

Read Galatians 5:13–14 and John 13:1–17. Circle repeated words, underline commands, and note what the passages reveal about God, people, and relationships.

My first observations or questions:

KNOW: UNDERSTAND THE TRUTH

As you study these passages, consider how the freedom we have received in Christ calls us to serve one another in love. Pay attention to Jesus' example of humble service and how receiving His grace shapes the way we care for others.

Freedom Is for Love
Grace frees us from earning salvation and from slavery to sin. Paul warns us not to turn freedom into self-indulgence. Freedom reaches its proper purpose when we use it to serve one another through love.

Jesus Redefines Greatness
Knowing His identity and authority, Jesus took the place of a household servant. He did not serve from insecurity but from secure love. In His kingdom, greatness is measured by humble faithfulness.

Service Receives Before It Gives
Peter first had to let Jesus wash him. We serve rightly when we have received Christ's cleansing and care. Without this foundation, service can easily become performance, control, resentment, or a search for praise.

Doctrine: What We Believe
The Son of Man came not to be served but to serve and give His life as a ransom (Mark 10:45). We are saved by grace apart from works, yet saved for good works (Ephesians 2:8–10). Our service is a response to the grace we have received, not a way to earn God's acceptance.

Supplemental Passages: Mark 10:42–45 · Romans 12:3–8 · Philippians 2:5–11 · 1 Peter 4:10–11 · Ephesians 2:8–10

KNOW QUESTIONS

1. How does Galatians 5:13–14 connect freedom, love, and service?

2. What did Jesus know about Himself before He washed His disciples' feet?

3. What reasons does Jesus give His disciples to follow His example?

FOLLOW: PRACTICE THE WAY OF JESUS

Move from what the text means to what faithful obedience looks like in your actual relationships. Choose at least two questions to answer fully before the group meets.

1. What ways of serving others feel beneath you, or do you avoid serving when no one notices?

2. Do you serve from love, guilt, control, habit, or a desire for recognition?

3. Where do you need to receive care instead of always being the strong one?

4. What need can you meet using your time, abilities, access, or resources?

FOLLOW: PRACTICE THE WAY OF JESUS

This Week's Practice
Choose a hidden act of service—clean, prepare, give, drive, repair, visit, or assist—suited to a real need. Serve without announcing it or controlling the response.

My specific person, action, and time:

REFLECT: ATTEND TO THE HEART

Take time to examine your heart in light of what you've learned. Consider what the Holy Spirit is revealing about your attitudes, fears, and relationships as He forms you to reflect Christ.

1. How does your secure identity in Christ free you to take a lower place?

2. When have you resented serving? What was happening in your heart?

3. Whose quiet service has shown you Jesus?

RESPOND AND PRAY

Servant King, free me from self-importance and teach me to take the towel joyfully.

One truth I want to remember:

One step I will practice:

People and needs we will pray for: