

Servant Leadership in the Bible

Read each of the Bible passages below (offered in 2 translations). Make the following notations throughout and bring to class ready to discuss:

- Circle or highlight any phrases that surprise you.
- Place a question mark (?) by any phrases that you don't understand.
- Place a check (✓) by any phrases that you agree with.
- Place an X by any phrases that you disagree with.

<p>²⁵ Jesus called them together and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. ²⁶ Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, ²⁷ and whoever wants to be first must be your slave— ²⁸ just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”</p> <p>- Matthew 20:25-28 (NIV)</p>	<p>²⁴⁻²⁸ When the ten others heard about this, they lost their tempers, thoroughly disgusted with the two brothers. So Jesus got them together to settle things down. He said, “You’ve observed how godless rulers throw their weight around, how quickly a little power goes to their heads. It’s not going to be that way with you. Whoever wants to be great must become a servant. Whoever wants to be first among you must be your slave. That is what the Son of Man has done: He came to serve, not be served—and then to give away his life in exchange for the many who are held hostage.”</p> <p>- Matthew 20:24-28 (MSG)</p>
<p>¹¹ The greatest among you will be your servant. ¹² For those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.</p> <p>- Matthew 23:11-12 (NIV)</p>	<p>¹¹⁻¹² “Do you want to stand out? Then step down. Be a servant. If you puff yourself up, you’ll get the wind knocked out of you. But if you’re content to simply be yourself, your life will count for plenty.”</p> <p>- Matthew 23:11-12 (MSG)</p>
<p>³⁵ Sitting down, Jesus called the Twelve and said, “Anyone who wants to be first must be the very last, and the servant of all.”</p> <p>- Mark 9:35 (NIV)</p>	<p>³⁵ He sat down and summoned the Twelve. “So you want first place? Then take the last place. Be the servant of all.”</p> <p>- Mark 9:35 (MSG)</p>

<p>²⁴ A dispute also arose among them as to which of them was considered to be greatest. ²⁵ Jesus said to them, “The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those who exercise authority over them call themselves Benefactors. ²⁶ But you are not to be like that. Instead, the greatest among you should be like the youngest, and the one who rules like the one who serves. ²⁷ For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one who is at the table? But I am among you as one who serves.</p> <p>- Luke 22:24-27 (NIV)</p>	<p>²⁴⁻²⁶ Within minutes they were bickering over who of them would end up the greatest. But Jesus intervened: “Kings like to throw their weight around and people in authority like to give themselves fancy titles. It’s not going to be that way with you. Let the senior among you become like the junior; let the leader act the part of the servant.</p> <p>²⁷⁻³⁰ “Who would you rather be: the one who eats the dinner or the one who serves the dinner? You’d rather eat and be served, right? But I’ve taken my place among you as the one who serves. And you’ve stuck with me through thick and thin. Now I confer on you the royal authority my Father conferred on me so you can eat and drink at my table in my kingdom and be strengthened as you take up responsibilities among the congregations of God’s people.</p> <p>- Luke 22:24-30 (MSG)</p>
<p>³ Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, ⁴ not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. ⁵ In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: ⁶ Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; ⁷ rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.</p> <p>- Philippians 2:3-7 (NIV)</p>	<p>¹⁻⁴ If you’ve gotten anything at all out of following Christ, if his love has made any difference in your life, if being in a community of the Spirit means anything to you, if you have a heart, if you <i>care</i>—then do me a favor: Agree with each other, love each other, be deep-spirited friends. Don’t push your way to the front; don’t sweet-talk your way to the top. Put yourself aside, and help others get ahead. Don’t be obsessed with getting your own advantage. Forget yourselves long enough to lend a helping hand.</p> <p>⁵⁻⁸ Think of yourselves the way Christ Jesus thought of himself. He had equal status with God but didn’t think so much of himself that he had to cling to the</p>

	<p>advantages of that status no matter what. Not at all. When the time came, he set aside the privileges of deity and took on the status of a slave, became <i>human!</i> Having become human, he stayed human. It was an incredibly humbling process. He didn't claim special privileges. Instead, he lived a selfless, obedient life and then died a selfless, obedient death—and the worst kind of death at that—a crucifixion.</p> <p>- Philipians 2:1-8 (MSG)</p>
<p>² Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, watching over them—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve; ³ not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock.</p> <p>- 1 Peter 5:2-3 (NIV)</p>	<p>¹⁻³ I have a special concern for you church leaders. I know what it's like to be a leader, in on Christ's sufferings as well as the coming glory. Here's my concern: that you care for God's flock with all the diligence of a shepherd. Not because you have to, but because you want to please God. Not calculating what you can get out of it, but acting spontaneously. Not bossily telling others what to do, but tenderly showing them the way.</p> <p>- 1 Peter 5:1-3 (MSG)</p>