

**OCTOBER 24, 2021**  
**LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**  
**THIS IS US WEEK 7 | WE ARE SERVANTS**  
**JOHN 13:1-20**  
**FALL QUARTER WEEK 7 OF 13**

EFCC's definition of a disciple: Someone who is learning to live in the way of Jesus with the heart of Jesus.

EFCC's discipleship values: Pursuit, Obedience, Journey, Wholeness, Together, Mission.

EFCC's discipleship model: being WITH (upward focus), becoming LIKE (inward focus), doing AS (outward focus).

EFCC's discipleship methodology: focus on what we need to learn, what we need to practice and with whom we need to be in relationship in order to live in the way of Jesus with the heart of Jesus.

I think the discipleship value most highlighted this week is **mission**. Here is how we've defined it -

"Our greatest privilege and responsibility is to join God in his local and global redemptive work of renewing all things. We believe we do this best when we see ourselves as agents of God's kingdom who work for the betterment of his world by serving, sacrificing, relieving suffering, fighting injustice, loving others, caring about the things he cares about, and equipping people with the vision and tools they need to live out their part in his redemptive plan. Our ultimate desire is to see everyone, everywhere following Jesus by being disciples who make disciples for the joy of all peoples!"

In the being **WITH**, becoming **LIKE** and doing **AS** paradigm, this week's message focuses us on **doing as**.

As always, there is more here to discuss than you probably have time for. I trust the Holy Spirit will guide you to do what's appropriate for your group!

**Renewed by Grace**

**1. How do you pass the time while stuck in traffic?**

There are a few things I do, and they are probably a lot like the few things you do!

- I listen to the radio. I mostly listen to news stations.
- Podcasts. I've been listening to a podcast from Christianity Today about the Rise and Fall of Mars Hill Church in Seattle.
- I turn off the radio and the podcasts and I pray and think.
- I turn off the radio and enjoy silence. I spend that time thinking.
- I write Leaders Notes (kidding).
- I might make some phone calls or send some text messages.
- How about you?

## Equipped as Disciples

### 2. Review with each other how it went practicing last week's "I will..." statement.

Last week our group went to the Spiritual Warfare Seminar that Ryan taught. No I WILL Statement for me last week. I do have some others that I am working with from other Bible Studies and discipling making relationships that I have. Feel free to ask me about those, if you're ever interested.

## Read John 6:1-15

### 3. What are a few areas of life over which God has given you some measure of power? Do you find that you use that power to serve, or do you expect to be served? Why?

Here's where I am going with this question: No matter where we work, or if we still work, there are areas of our lives that we do have power over. The most significant one that comes to mind is our "free" time, or our discretionary time. We have power over how we spend the time available to us that isn't controlled by someone else who has power over us. It may be a little, it may be a lot. But it is there in all of our lives.

There are other areas as well, right? I can think of our discretionary income. For those parents who have kids or grandkids living with them, you have power over those humans (or so you think!). For those still married, we have power over each other. For those with roommates, you all have power over each other. You may have power over people at work, or on a volunteer committee or in some volunteer role which you fulfill.

We all have some measure of power.

But how do you use the power God has given you - be it limited or expansive - to serve? Or do you? I bet you do. In fact, I know you do. But how? This question is intended to 1) challenge you and your group if you aren't using your power to serve and 2) let you learn from each other and challenge each other to continue to think and pray about how you can use the power with which you've been entrusted to serve others and to not expect to be served in return.

Part of the challenge is that we view "our time" as "our time" and we might not think, "Ok, how can I serve God and others with this time, or with these extra resources He's given me?" Sometimes we think, "Ok, I have this time or these resources and I'm going to use them to serve myself." (This is not always the wrong response, by the way.)

There is, of course, balance and submission to the Lord in all of this. Sometimes you have to serve yourself by saying, "No" to others. Jesus did (Mark 6:45-46 is one such example). And sometimes you have to serve others by not serving them. Every parent knows what I mean. And sometimes you have to use your extra resources to pamper yourself. God is gracious, merciful and kind. But He is also King.

What are your thoughts on having balance and perspective in this area of life?

### 4. There are three things Jesus knows about Himself. These things allow Him to serve well.

#### a. What are they? (Everything below is from Ryan's notes.)

##### i. Authority.

1. "Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands."  
(John 13:3)

2. When you know you have authority, you don't need to prove you have it.
3. People who exert their power are really insecure at their core.
4. Jesus had nothing to prove, and it freed him to walk in power.

ii. **Identity.**

1. "Jesus, knowing that God the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God..." (John 13:3)
2. "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased." (Matthew 3:17)
3. In the same way that a lack of conviction about authority drives us to try to prove ourselves, so too a lack of conviction about our identity causes us to try to define ourselves. We do that through earning, accumulating, and trying to make a name. It's one of the oldest temptations out there.

iii. **Destiny.**

1. "Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going back to God..." (John 13:3)
2. Jesus knew he was going back to God.
3. There is freedom to serve if we know that we have eternity with Jesus waiting for us.
4. Conviction about eternal bliss frees us to bend the knee in service.

**b. At this point in your life, does one of them stand out as more important than the others as you continue to grow at serving well? Why?**

I'll spare you my thoughts about which one is apropos for me. There is one, for sure.

**5. The point was brought out that we must also let Jesus serve us. What are your thoughts about that truth? Does that make you feel uncomfortable? Why?**

Here is some of what Ryan said -

"I wonder if some of us are here today and we're saying, Jesus you can wash all of me, just don't touch my feet....

You can't touch the abuse I suffered

You can't touch the divorce I walked through

You can't touch the anxiety I carry

You can't touch the shame that's on my back

You have your reasons just like Peter that God shouldn't serve you and love you...but unless you allow him to touch your dirtiest parts...unless you allow him to touch all of you...you have no part in him. Give in, let yourself be washed by Jesus and his love. Let him serve you. Constant forgiveness of sins will be the foundation of our relationship with Jesus - this is death to pride, but it is water for the thirsty soul."

**6. Are there any other comments about the text or the sermon that you would like to share?**

Just one last chance to let people share anything they feel compelled to share.

**Sent in Love**

**7. Jesus calls all His people to follow Him and be servants. When it comes to being a servant, "THIS WEEK I WILL..."**

When it comes to developing useful I WILL Statements, it's best to keep these thoughts in mind -

- A person's Statement should be clear. They should be able to tell the group exactly what they plan to do.
- It should be concise. This is similar to clear, I suppose. The Statement should not be foggy or opaque or difficult to evaluate if it was done or not. It should be measurable.aa
- In a perfect world it is something which the person is able to complete or at least start within 24 hours.
- It should be simple and achievable.
- There is nothing wrong with starting small and building from that.