



Discipleship Course

4. Serving your new family

Being God's people today

The Big idea

The Lord Jesus shows us that true greatness is all about service. When we become Christians, God gives us gifts so that we can get on and serve one another. Today we'll be thinking through what that looks like, and how we can get stuck in ourselves.

What do you aspire to in life?

1. Why we must serve one another (Mark 10:35-45, p. 1015)

a. Greatness according to the world

b. Greatness according to Jesus

"Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus, who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant."

Phil. 2:4-7

Small Groups

1. What do you find most challenging about Jesus' example of service?
2. We've seen that God gives us gifts to enable us to serve others
 - How do you think you can work out what your gifts are?
 - How might you use your gifts to serve God's people at St Mary's?

Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-26 (p. 1153)

Paul has been explaining that Christians are united because of Jesus, but are also very different from each other: personalities, gifts, abilities. He now uses the image of a body to help us see what that means for us

3. How does the human body help us understand what it means to be a church family? (v12-14)
4. Look at v14-20. What problem is raised, and how is it answered?
5. What might it look like for someone to think a bit like the 'foot' in our church family?
6. If you or someone else feels like they 'don't belong' at church, how can you answer them from these verses? How might that encourage them to get stuck in?
7. Look at v21-26. What problem is raised this time, and how is it answered?
8. What is God's great desire for our church family in v25-26? What might that practically look like?
9. Look at the imagined attitudes below. Have you noticed them before? How do our verses act as a helpful corrective to each one?
 - *"I only chat with/make friends with people who are similar to me at church"*
 - *"I see myself as self-sufficient, and don't think I really need others"*
 - *"I don't have anything to give- others are much more able than me, I'd better leave it to them."*
 - *"Life is tough at the moment, but I wouldn't want to burden anyone else with my problems..."*

Taking it further in the week

Reflect

- How have you experienced love from your church family?
- How can you grow in love for your church family?

Read

Read through **Romans 12:1-8**

- *How should you view yourself, and others?*
- *How does the 'body' image help us again?*
- *How should you use the gifts that you have?*

Respond

- Thank God for the gifts he's given you and ask that he would help you to put them to use in serving others
- Have a think about one way you can practically serve a fellow believer this week, and get on and do it!

Prayer points