

Devotion 1 “Service with a Smile”

Scripture Reading John 13:1-17

Jesus is the only true King, but in this passage, the King served His people! This must have shocked His followers. They didn't want to serve each other, but none of them expected their leader to serve them!

What Jesus did is different than you or me serving other people like our parents, sibling, classmates, or neighbors. After all, Jesus is the King and Kings don't serve the people they rule over, but the people they rule over are supposed to serve the King.

Jesus shows us a different way of living. If we are to be in His kingdom, we must be willing to serve others, to think of their needs above our own, and to resist the desire to only serve ourselves. We can only do this if Jesus is our King.

What's amazing is when we serve only ourselves, we are never satisfied, but when we serve Jesus and others, He satisfies us and makes sure our needs are met.

Object Lesson:

Supplies Needed:

1 spoon for every family member

1 Large Bowl

Candy that can be scooped like Skittles or M&Ms

Lesson

Pour the candy into the bowl. Tell your kids how good the candy will taste.

Give everyone a spoon and instruct them to stretch out the arm holding the spoon. They cannot bend their elbow or wrist. They cannot lift their spoon above their shoulder. They must scoop up candy and get it into their mouth. (They shouldn't be able to do this.)

After a few minutes, change the rules. Give everyone a spoon and instruct them to stretch out the arm holding the spoon. They cannot bend their elbow or wrist. They cannot lift their spoon above their shoulder. They must scoop up candy and get it into someone else's mouth. (They should be able to do this.)

Discussion/Questions

What was different between trying to get the candy into your mouth and trying to get the candy into someone else's mouth?

As you served others, did you worry you wouldn't get any candy?

Which way should we live, serving ourselves or serving others? Why?