Journey into Compassion
A Study Series
Session III
Chapters 2 and 3
Theme: Serving Hands

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assemble</th>
<th>Participants handouts placed on seats</th>
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<tr>
<td>Flip chart and markers</td>
<td>Worship page</td>
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<tr>
<td>Name tags</td>
<td>Session III song lyrics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Water pitcher, bowl, hand towels</td>
<td>Homework for Session IV</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chime (Singing Bowl or Bell)</td>
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<td>Stones from last sessions</td>
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<tr>
<td>Candle, placed on center table</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bible, placed on center table (readings marked)</td>
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<td>Cross, placed on center table</td>
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<td>Computer for playing music</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Agenda Item</th>
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<tr>
<td>Opening Worship</td>
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<td>Opening sharing and follow-up discussion</td>
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<td>Activity one: Discussion of Chapters</td>
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<td>Sending prayer</td>
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Gathering Time

Before session begins make reading assignments.

Gathering music- Play “Hands” by Jewel (repeating if necessary) This can be found in Session III resources or you can use this link http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_l-0WKZn4Y

Light the candle, take your seat and ring the chime, after a moment turn down the music.

Opening Worship

Facilitator: Let us say together....... 

All: We are gathered “in the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate.”

As one facilitator reads the following, the other facilitator brings in a bowl of warm water and a hand towel, placing them on the table.

Facilitator: Our God is a servant God. We see God in servanthood. God chose to be revealed in servanthood through Jesus. Wherever we see real service we also see joy, because in the midst of service a divine presence becomes visible and a gift is offered. Let us be servants to each other in the washing of one another’s hands.”

A facilitator begins by inviting one member of the group to come to the table to have their hands washed. That member then invites someone else to the table and repeats this process. The last member of the group washes the hands of the first facilitator.

Facilitator: “O Lord our heavenly Father, whose blessed Son came not to be ministered unto but to minister: Bless, we beseech thee, all who, following in his steps, give themselves to the service of others; that with wisdom, patience, and courage, they may minister in his name to the suffering, the friendless, and the needy; for the love of him who laid down his life for us, the same thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.” (BCP)

Opening Sharing

Facilitator: “The God of compassion is not only a God who serves but also a God who serves in obedience. When we realize that Jesus’ compassion was born of an intimate
listening to the unconditional love of God, we can understand how servanthood can indeed be the full expression of compassion.”

**Sharing 1**

Welcome group and invite the participants to briefly share their experience doing the homework assignment from last week. During the group sharing the hand towel can be passed from person to person around the circle and held by each one as they are speaking. Go around the circle once for a brief comment from each about their personal experience then open the floor for discussion.

**Sharing 2**

Repeat the sharing process asking the participants to briefly respond to the incomplete sentences regarding their reading for the week. (one minute or less per person)

**Discussion**

Use the issues raised to facilitate the discussion or if necessary choose from the following questions.

• What did you hear the others say that resonated with you?

• How do you see this inspiring you to become an obedient servant?

• How do we discern what God wants us to do?

• The authors tell us that “God’s will” is not a label that can be put on unhappy situations. God wants to bring joy not pain, peace not war, healing not suffering. Therefore, instead of declaring anything and everything to be the will of God, we must be willing to ask ourselves where in the midst of our pains and sufferings we can discern the loving presence of God.” How do you respond to this?

• How can we see Christ in the people we serve and in turn make them aware of the blessing they are to us?

**Conclusion**

• Questions and answers
  • Distribute handout *Homework for Session IV* and discuss
  • Homework assignment 1
    The hardest part of being a servant is opening your eyes.” At the beginning of each day this next week, pray, “Lord, make me a servant.” Then, that evening think about those you have met, people who make up your little world, the person
on the elevator, co-workers, the guy across the street you waved at, friends, people in class etc. Before you go to bed pray for them.

• Homework assignment 2
In our reading this coming week we will read about community, displacement and togetherness. Bring to the session next week one small object that represents community, displacement or togetherness to you. This should be an item you do not want to keep.

(NOTE: This is the longest and in some ways the most dense of all our readings. Adequate reflection will be necessary to get the full value of this reading)

SENDING PRAYER

Option: Sing The Servant Song as found in the Session III resources or you can use this link [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k-Pk2NHKg_o&feature=related](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k-Pk2NHKg_o&feature=related)

Facilitator: Let us offer our concerns and encouragements to each other, as we leave this space to continue our journey...

Facilitator: O God, you made us in your own image and redeemed us through Jesus your Son: Look with compassion on the whole human family; take away the arrogance and hatred which infect our hearts; break down the walls that separate us; unite us in bonds of love; and work through our struggle and confusion to accomplish your purposes on earth; that, in your good time, all nations and races may serve you in harmony around your heavenly throne; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (BCP)

All:

Lord, make us instruments of your peace.
Where there is hatred, let us sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is discord, union;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light;
where there is sadness, joy.

Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console;
to be understood as to understand;
to be loved as to love.
For it is in giving that we receive;
it is pardoning that we are pardoned;
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.

Facilitator: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord with compassion. Let us share the peace as we prepare to continue our journey.

Everyone shares God’s Peace