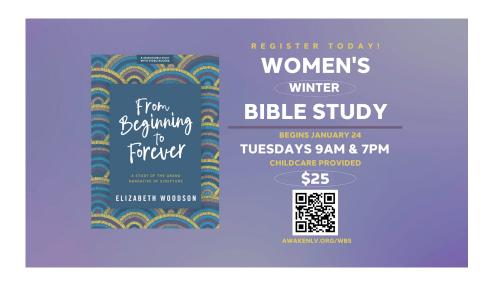


If you are new to Awaken scan the code and RSVP to be at our next Meet and Greet on Feb 5



Our Men's and Women's Bible Studies are gearing up on January 24! Sign up today! Scan the QR codes on the graphic



ENCOUNTERJESUS

Week 21 | THE POWER OF SERVING | John 13:1-17

SERVING OTHERS IS NOT A MATTER OF PERSONAL CONVENIENCE IT'S A MATTER OF PRIORITIZING LOVE

You know, when you were new to Christianity, there was a new vocabulary to learn. Lots of insider language that didn't always seem to make sense. Fellowship made you think of Hobbits and Elves. Quiet time reminded you of kindergarten when you put your head on your desk and took a five-minute nap. A hedge of protection sounded like a self-defense shrub that you planted in your front yard. And laying on of hands. Well, for some of us, that's a whole other story. Serving is another term that can take you off guard. Maybe someone said to you early on, "Where are you serving?" And you thought, "I don't even play tennis." But, of course, all these terms have real significance to our Christian faith, and serving is no exception. Serving means treating others in a way that prioritizes their needs over your own. You might think, "Why would I want to do that." The simple answer is that Jesus served, and through His service, he taught us to serve. His life was a living expression of self-giving love, putting others before Himself. And that lifestyle had the power to change the world and still does today.

Leaders: Take your group through each section: Pray, Reflect, and Reach. Keep in mind the time allowances. In the Reflect section, feel free to focus on several of these questions instead of all as time allows.



PRAY (10 min)

As a Life Group, take time to reflect and pray over this weekend's message. Reflect on how Jesus, in a self-giving way, has served you and loved you. Thank Him in your time of prayer.



REFLECT (25 min)

As you've had the opportunity to reflect on what God has spoken to you through the lesson this week, consider these questions as a group and discuss them.

- 1. In this amazing story we learn that Jesus served His disciples when it was most inconvenient. He prioritized them and loved them rather than focusing on Himself. **Would you consider yourself selfish or selfless? Do you prioritize others? Describe in practical terms. Do you only serve when it's inconvenient?**
- 2. Jesus' thinking directed His actions. There were three things that He knew and considered that drove Him to serve His disciples: destiny, victory, and eternity. **Based on the study and the description below, how did these three things affect his thinking/actions, and how can they affect yours?**

DESTINY: LIVING ON THE FATHER'S TIME AND ACCORDING TO THE FATHER'S WILL. VICTORY: A POSITION OF WEAKNESS IS IN FACT A POSITION OF STRENGTH. ETERNITY: MAKING THINGS COUNT FOR ETERNITY.

ENCOUNTERJESUS

NOW BEFORE THE FEAST OF THE PASSOVER, WHEN JESUS KNEW THAT HIS HOUR HAD COME TO DEPART OUT OF THIS WORLD TO THE FATHER.... 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 13:1,3

3. Jesus washed the feet of all the disciples, including Judas. His service wasn't conditional, based on who deserved it. **How do** you respond when God guides you to serve people you don't believe deserve it?

BUT I SAY TO YOU, LOVE YOUR ENEMIES AND PRAY FOR THOSE WHO PERSECUTE YOU, SO THAT YOU MAY BE SONS OF YOUR FATHER WHO IS IN HEAVEN. FOR HE MAKES HIS SUN RISE ON THE EVIL AND ON THE GOOD. AND SENDS RAIN ON THE JUST AND ON THE UNJUST. FOR IF YOU LOVE THOSE WHO LOVE YOU, WHAT REWARD DO YOU HAVE? DO NOT EVEN THE TAX COLLECTORS DO THE SAME? AND IF YOU GREET ONLY YOUR BROTHERS. WHAT MORE ARE YOU DOING THAN OTHERS? DO NOT EVEN THE GENTILES DO THE SAME? YOU THEREFORE MUST BE PERFECT, AS YOUR HEAVENLY FATHER IS PERFECT.

4. How can you be more of a servant to your family, friends, and in your church? Think of a time that someone selflessly served you. How did it impact you?

REBEL AGAINST THE WORLD SYSTEM BY SERVING OTHERS, PROVING THAT IT'S REALLY NOT ALL ABOUT YOU.



WEEKLY MEMORIZATION VERSE

GALATIANS 6:10

So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.



SHARE A STORY OF GOD DOING AMAZING THINGS THROUGH YOUR **SERVING**



SCAN CODE And share with us!

DEEPER DIVE: R ead and study **Philippians 2:1-11.** Consider how far Christ was willing to go to rescue you.



REACH (5 min)

Considering what God revealed to you this week, prioritize the needs of others above your own. Pay attention to the leading to God's Spirit, don't be overcome by inconvenience, and choose to love people in real practical ways.