



Session 3 Leader Guide

TEACHING NOTES:

Play the video segment for session three. As you watch, use the following outline to record any thoughts or concepts that stand out to you.

It is in your best interest to look out for the interests of others! The way to make yourself smile is to first make someone else smile.

The Bible has its share of saints spurred by a gut-level conviction that God had called them to a specific task. As a result, their work wasn't affected by moods, cloudy days, or rocky trails.

Anyone who appreciates Paul's epistles owes a debt of gratitude to Peter. And anyone who has benefited from the faith of Peter owes a debt to the servant spirit of Andrew.

To describe Epaphroditus, Paul used words like brother, co-worker, fellow soldier, and messenger. These are compliments earned over years and tears.

Let all unassuming people of the world be reminded: God can use you. And let all proud people be cautioned: God will correct you.

We are valuable to God, but not indispensable. We do nothing apart from the hand of God. It's a principle Jesus had to teach to two of his own disciples: James and John.

After the resurrection, we read how Jesus, the unrivaled Commander of the Universe, invited his friends to sit down and have a bite to eat. What's more, he does the same for us today.

What would happen if everyone truly decided to take on the role of a servant by turning the focus off themselves and putting it on others?

DISCUSSION:

1. When you are feeling low, sad, or depressed, what do you typically do to cry to make yourself feel better? Does it work? Why or why not?
2. When you think about the heroes in the Bible, who comes to mind? In what ways did those individuals exhibit humility and service to others?
3. What characteristics do people in our culture tend to value today? Why do you think our society places such an emphasis on possessing those characteristics?
4. Before today's video segment, what did you know about Andrew and Epaphroditus in the New Testament? By today's standards and culture, how would people treat or view someone like Andrew or Epaphroditus?
5. Read Galatians 5:13. Freedom is typically considered the opposite of serving, but here Paul says that freedom in Christ frees us to serve. How can the freedom we have in Christ lead us to serve others? In what ways have you experienced this in your life?
6. Read Philippians 2:3. How did Jesus follow this principle in the Gospels?
7. Read Matthew 6:1. Why is it important to examine our motives when we serve others? What is the problem with serving in order to bring attention to ourselves?
8. Joanna was able to turn something difficult into an opportunity to serve. What is a practical way you could serve others the next time you are feeling down?