

**LESSON 2: WHY JESUS SERVED**

This includes:

- 1. LEADER PREPARATION**
- 2. LESSON GUIDE**

**1. LEADER PREPARATION****LESSON OVERVIEW**

Serving can be defined as the opposite of selfishness. Looking at the life of Jesus, we see that serving was something he regularly, consistently did—it wasn't just an occasional item on his calendar. Jesus surprised others through his service. Serving flowed naturally from God through Jesus to impact people's lives, and it can flow naturally through the lives of your students, too.

**LESSON OBJECTIVES**

- 1. WHAT:** Because of what Jesus has done in our lives, we are called to serve others.
- 2. WHY:** Teenagers benefit from exploring how the act of serving is much more than a duty or obligation—that it's an expression of Jesus' plan and strength in us.
- 3. HOW:** Students will explore Jesus' habit of serving and draw specific parallels to their own lives.

**PRIMARY SCRIPTURE**

Luke 4:14-22

**SECONDARY SCRIPTURE**

1 Corinthians 12:4-6

**TEACHING PREP**

**LEADER  
TIP**

**Use this short overview to prepare for your lesson. While you may not want to convey this information word-for-word with your group, you'll want to absorb it as you prepare to lead.**

**Read Luke 4:14-22.**

This passage occurs early in Jesus' ministry. He had just spent time in the wilderness, where he faced Satan's temptation and then rebuked Satan. Jesus had also spent years in prayer and in studying the Scriptures, and he had already taught regularly in the synagogues. Jesus returned to his hometown of Nazareth and was asked to read on this particular day.

The passage that he read from Isaiah was just right on many levels. "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me..." speaks to a level of inspiration and confirmation of Jesus' ministry. The passage then goes on to provide specific ways God had planned his ministry: bringing the good news, freeing the captives, and healing the blind.

People objected to this, as they objected to other aspects of Jesus' ministry. They had already heard a great deal about the things Jesus was saying and doing. In fact, "reports spread quickly through the whole region." They questioned Jesus and were confused because Jesus was the son of Joseph the carpenter.

As we look at the habits of Jesus, we find serving was a way of life for him. As directed by God, Jesus didn't see serving as an extra set of to-dos on his calendar. And for us today, serving is a way to directly impact others. Creativity can come alive while serving because there is no cookie-cutter approach to service. Our world is filled with such a wide variety of needs: physical, relational, spiritual. Help your students discover how serving can specifically meet each of these needs, and how Jesus is at work to weave together people who are in need with people who can meet those needs.

## **THE BEFORE & AFTER [OPTIONAL]**

### **TEXT OR TWEETS**

**Send one or both of these messages to your students prior to your meeting. As with the rest of the curriculum, edit these questions to fit the needs of your ministry.**

- What are you really good at? How can doing that help someone else? Let's explore tonight!
- What is your favorite random act of kindness? We'll talk about these this week.

### **PARENT EMAIL**

**Send this email to parents following the lesson to encourage them to continue the conversation at home. Feel free to edit and customize the email to fit your ministry needs.**

Dear parents,

We're continuing our series on the habits of Jesus. His life provides the perfect example of habits that become a way of life, and this week, we discussed Jesus' habit of serving.

As we read and examined Luke 4:14-22, students discussed how Jesus didn't see service as an added task or two on his calendar. Service was a way of life, flowing naturally. For Jesus, service was a God-planned way for him to impact others. Jesus surprised others by how he approached service. This can be true for all of us as we allow Jesus' work in our lives to produce naturally flowing service.

Find time this week to talk with your teenager about the lesson, including what was most surprising or challenging. Feel free to use these questions as conversation starters:

- How do you compare acts of service to your chores at home? How are they different?
- In what ways do you enjoy serving others?
- What random act of kindness can you do this week? Can I help?

Thanks for all your prayers for our students and our ministry. Have an amazing week!

**LESSON 2: WHY JESUS SERVED****2. LESSON GUIDE****GETTING THINGS STARTED [OPTIONAL]****LEADER  
TIP**

Preview the following video for your group: [youtube.com/watch?v=eu9UtVaWYal](https://youtube.com/watch?v=eu9UtVaWYal) (or find a video displaying or encouraging acts of kindness). You will need an Internet connection and a computer or tablet to display the video for your participants.

Welcome your students and invite them into your meeting area. Open in prayer, and then play the video clip. Then **ASK**:

- *What moment in that video was most powerful, and why?*
- *Tell us about a time you performed a random act of kindness toward another person. What was that experience like? Or if you've never done that, what kinds of random, kind acts might other people appreciate?*
- *Describe a time when you've received an act of kindness. How was that different from performing an act of kindness to another person?*
- *Which do you find more meaningful: a small act of service or an extravagant act of service? Why?*

**SAY SOMETHING LIKE:** *This video showed a range of random acts of kindness each of us can do every day to impact people's lives. Some acts are bigger than others. Some acts involve money, while others don't. But all of these acts can help us gain insight and understanding as we discuss why Jesus served.*

**TEACHING POINTS****LEADER  
TIP**

Use the Teaching Points to help students capture the essence of each lesson with more discussion and less lecture-style teaching. Remember: All throughout these lessons, it's up to you to choose (1) how many questions you use and (2) the wording of the main points—keep ours, or change the wording to make it clearer for your audience.

Read Luke 4:14-22 together as a group. Consider dividing verses among your students so several people have a chance to read.

**SAY SOMETHING LIKE:** *This passage focuses on an event that happened pretty early in Jesus' ministry. Let's take a look at Jesus' habit of serving and discover why he served.*

## 1. JESUS WAS LED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT

### ASK:

- *When have you been surprised by being in the right place at the right time? Tell us about that experience.*
- *Describe a time when you saw a need and found a way to meet it.*
- *What can happen when we ignore the needs around us?*
- *How has Jesus met a need in your life through a friend or a family member?*
- *In your life, what does it look like to be led by the Holy Spirit? How do you know when that's really happening?*

**SAY SOMETHING LIKE:** *Jesus looked to the Holy Spirit for guidance on when and where to serve people. The needs in this world are so great—we as individuals can't serve everyone and meet every need. Jesus knows this and is at work to weave together people who are in need and people who can meet those needs.*

## 2. JESUS SERVED WITH PURPOSE TO IMPACT THE LIVES OF OTHERS

### ASK:

- *Without using specific names, tell us about some real-life needs you've seen this week—at school, at work, at church, or at home.*
- *What are your natural talents or hobbies, and how might you use them to impact or help others?*
- *In verse 18, we see that God sent Jesus for a specific purpose. What types of things has God sent us to do? Do they have to be big things? Explain your thoughts.*
- *How do you choose where to serve?*

**SAY SOMETHING LIKE:** *Jesus focused on God's plan for his life—each day. He didn't need to have it all figured out; he only needed to be obedient in the moment and listen to what God was saying that day. The same is true for us. God has a plan for our lives—a plan not only to have a relationship with him but also for that relationship to spill out and impact others.*

## 3. JESUS SURPRISED OTHERS WITH HIS SERVICE

### ASK:

- *Describe a time you enjoyed trying something new. What was so powerful about that experience?*
- *When is it OK to stop serving—or is it ever OK? Explain your opinion.*
- *Where can you look for ways to serve?*
- *Give us an example of one way you could serve that other people might find surprising or unexpected.*
- *How might your surprising act of service point people to Jesus?*

**SAY SOMETHING LIKE:** *Did you notice the crowd's reaction in this passage? The people in the synagogue were confused by Jesus' commitment to serving others. In verse 22, they asked themselves, "Isn't this Joseph's son?" It was customary for a son to follow in his father's profession. In their culture, it was expected*

that Jesus would become a carpenter just like Joseph was, but Jesus didn't become a carpenter—and Jesus surprised others by his devotion to serving and meeting people's needs. He followed God's plan and how he had been gifted and created to serve.

### EXTRA DISCUSSION [OPTIONAL]

#### ASK:

- How would you explain the difference between a self-centered life and an others-centered life?
- Read 1 Corinthians 12:4-6. What are some specific examples of different kinds of service?
- Why is it significant that God created us to serve in different ways, instead of all serving in identical ways?
- What kinds of service have been most meaningful to you, and why?
- How can serving people draw you closer to Jesus and help you lead more of a Jesus-centered life?

### LIVING IT OUT

Ask students to form groups of two or three to discuss these questions.



PAIR  
SHARE

#### ASK:

- What are some ways you can serve others—by yourself?
- List some specific ways we as a group can serve others together in the next week or two. What will it take to accomplish some of these ideas?
- How can life get in the way of serving people—and how can we respond to those situations?

Bring everyone back together, and ask for volunteers to share answers to the previous questions—particularly the question about specific ways to serve other people in the next week or two. Consider creating an opportunity for your group to serve together in your church or your community.

### SUMMARY



LEADER  
TIP

Provide a quick summary or take-home challenge based on (1) this lesson's content, (2) the dialogue that took place today, (3) your understanding of the issues and struggles your teenagers are facing, and (4) the big picture of your youth ministry and what your leadership team wants accomplished with the teaching and discussion time.

### FOR KEEPS [MEMORY VERSE]

Encourage and/or challenge your teenagers to memorize the Scripture below.

*"There are different kinds of service, but we serve the same Lord" (1 Corinthians 12:5).*