

WE ARE UNWORTHY SERVANTS

YEAR: UNITE / FOCUS: I AM CALLED
SERIES: GOD IS THE MASTER—I AM A SERVANT

BIG TRUTH: WE ARE UNWORTHY SERVANTS

1 Chronicles 29:14; 1 Corinthians 1:27; Romans 11:35; Ephesians 3:8; 1 Timothy 1:15; 1 Corinthians 15:9-10

BIBLE VERSE: LUKE 17:10

“So you also, when you have done all that you were commanded, say, ‘We are unworthy servants; we have only done what was our duty.’”

BIG IDEAS

- A servant's purpose is to serve his master.
- The master does not owe the servant anything.
- We wholeheartedly serve Jesus knowing that we are unworthy of His grace.

BIBLE PASSAGE: LUKE 17:7-10

UNITE - I AM CALLED

The Unite Year is an exploration of what it means to be united in Christ as the family of God (Romans 12:5). When we are saved, we are given a spirit of adoption as sons (Romans 8:15-16), are made a child of God, and we are also saved into a family- the Church. The Unite Year explores how we are to live as a part of a family, and to live in light of our calling as servants and disciples of Christ. We use our gifts to build up the church as we pursue unity, humility, and gentleness with our brothers and sisters in Christ (Ephesians 4:1-2).

SERIES AIMS



Every student should know that...

- They are a servant of Jesus.
- They have been forgiven an unimaginable debt.
- To be a servant means to lay down their lives



Every student should feel...

- Awe at the forgiveness they have experienced in Christ.
- Thankful for the grace that brought them from death to life and into God's family.
- Unworthy of the mercy and grace they have received



Every student should strive to...

- Forgive anyone who has wronged them as Jesus has forgiven them.
- Walk by faith instead of giving into anxiety.
- Be known by their allegiance to Christ and the gospel.



Every student should want...

- To be faithful and pursue obedience to God.
- To sacrifice their comfort and control for the sake of the gospel.
- To be committed to Christ above all else.

GUIDES AND WORKOUTS

The Guide provides a commentary page on each week's Bible verse and on each Big Idea that unpacks the Big Truth. Each week also includes a Student Workout as a resource to help the student pursue spiritual disciplines on their own. Additionally, each week has a Family Workout that helps equip parents and guardians to have spiritual conversations with their student.



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BIBLE VERSE: LUKE 17:10

“So you also, when you have done all that you were commanded, say, ‘We are unworthy servants; we have only done what was our duty.’”

Jesus followers do what is commanded.

“So you also, when you have done all that you were commanded...”

- In this passage in Luke, Jesus is teaching His listeners the important truth that we all are unworthy of Him. Because we are all sinners, we do not deserve God’s grace, yet He freely gives it to us. Jesus teaches that those who have saving faith become servants of His. They do what He commands and obey Him because they know He is the one true Lord.
- When we understand the grace that God has shown us, we serve Him willingly and know that we do not deserve the privilege of being used by Him. Our understanding of His grace leads us to obey Him. Our obedience is also fueled by our growing love for Him.

Jesus followers know they are unworthy.

“...We are unworthy servants...”

- Servants of Jesus know that God owes them nothing. God doesn’t owe us payment or reward for our obedience to Him. He doesn’t owe us a good life or plentiful blessings just because we follow Him and serve Him. We are unworthy of the opportunity to serve Him and follow Him. That we get to is in itself a grace.
- A servant who understands they are unworthy knows that they are privileged to serve the one true God. They know that their service is out of love for Him and gratitude at His grace in their lives. They realize they are sinful and hopeless without Him.

Jesus followers serve humbly.

“...We are unworthy servants; we have only done what was our duty.”

- When we understand our sinfulness and unworthiness, we walk in humility. It is a humbling thing to recognize that there is nothing we can do to save ourselves. It is humbling to understand that not only are we unable to save ourselves, but we do not even deserve to be saved.
- Humility is a mark of God’s servants. To truly serve Him, we must humble ourselves to understand we deserve nothing, but have gained everything in gaining Christ. We do not demand payment or reward for our service to God. Instead, we find our joy in Jesus—knowing Him and being known by Him.

WE ARE UNWORTHY SERVANTS

BIG IDEA #1: A SERVANT'S PURPOSE IS TO SERVE HIS MASTER.¹

[THIS]

The Christian life is a life of service. Jesus modeled this and taught this during His time on earth. In Luke 17:7-10, He taught an important lesson about being His servant. A big part of being a servant is understanding who your master is. Jesus modeled this by humbling Himself and coming to earth to serve His Father. By serving the Father, He showed us what it looks like to serve your master. Just as Jesus gave up His rights and set aside His deity to obey the Father, we set aside our desires to serve Jesus. The story that Jesus told in Luke 17:7-10 shows that there is no room for our will or way in our life of service. We do not serve ourselves, but rather, we serve God. Just as Jesus' purpose on earth was to serve His Master, our purpose is to serve our master. Jesus fulfilled His purpose, not demanding His rights or even reward for His sacrifice. He served humbly and willingly out of His love for the Father.

[THEREFORE]

What negative ideas surround the idea of serving someone other than ourselves? How can you replace these ideas with what the Bible really says?

Often the word servant carries a negative connotation. History and the sin of mankind has distorted what it really means to be a servant. Serving God and others is crucial to being a Christ follower. We can put on the truth about servanthood by studying God's Word and following Jesus' example as we are reminded in Mark 10:45.

[THIS]

Every believer is called to be a servant. It is part of the purpose of every person who has saving faith in Jesus Christ. We are called first to serve God and second to serve others. This is how we obey God's Word and please Him. When we humbly acknowledge that this is our God-given purpose, we can live fulfilled lives because we will bring God glory. Our purpose isn't to seek our own fortune or fame. It isn't to have others serve us. Often it's easy to focus on what is not being done for us instead of focusing on how we can serve God and others. In our churches we can fall prey to the temptation to point out the ways others aren't serving us. Instead, we should acknowledge that our purpose is to serve, not to be served. When we do this, we will look more like Jesus and we will please the Father who calls us to serve Him and others all the days of our lives.

[THEREFORE]

How does your pride keep you from living as a servant?

Often our pride keeps us from serving others. Instead, it leads us to expect and demand others to serve us. 1 John 2:16, Romans 12:16, and Obadiah 1:3 speak to the sinfulness of our pride. Our pride keeps us from humbling ourselves to serve God and others. It makes us haughty and entitled.

How can you humble yourself and serve others this week?

As we humble ourselves each day, we will seek out ways to serve others. Galatians 5:13-14 reminds us to serve one another in love. 1 Peter 4:10-11 also teaches us to use the gifts, talents, and spiritual gifts that God has given us to serve one another. There are plenty of people to serve in this world and in the church. We need only seek the opportunity to serve.

1. Ephesians 6:5-6: *Servants serve their masters and work as unto the Lord for His glory and their good.*

WE ARE UNWORTHY SERVANTS

BIG IDEA #2: THE MASTER DOES NOT OWE THE SERVANT ANYTHING.²**[THIS]**

God is complete in Himself. He does not need anything, especially from mankind. He does not ask us to serve Him because He needs us to serve Him. Jesus highlights this truth in Luke 17:7-10. In Jesus' story, we see that the master doesn't owe the servant for doing what the servant is supposed to do. The master isn't indebted to his servants. Because so often in our world today, we don't interact with others in a master/servant way, we can find this teaching to be difficult and hard to understand. In our world, we operate in a boss/employee relationship which is different from a master/servant. We are used to doing a job and getting a paycheck. In this relationship, we are owed pay for the work we completed. This isn't the relationship that Jesus was teaching about in Luke 17:7-10. God is not our boss. He's our master and that is a completely different dynamic.

[THEREFORE]

What are some ways you've viewed service to God as more like completing a job that deserves payment or reward?

Ephesians 2:8-9 reminds us that we are not saved by our works. We can have a million good deeds, but they will not save us. Mark 7:21 shows us that our hearts are all wicked. Because of our sinfulness, it's easy for us to think that God needs us to serve Him. It's easy for us to feel owed by God for our devotion to Him. Our service to God is not a job. He is not our employer.

[THIS]

Prior to salvation, we are mastered by our sinful hearts. We follow the futile ways of this world because our hearts lead us that way. Once we become believers, we are no longer enslaved to our sin natures. Instead, God sets us free by paying the ransom for our sinful hearts. He becomes our Master and rightfully so. We become His servants and are called to live in obedience to Him. God doesn't owe us anything. We never deserved His sacrifice of Jesus on our behalf. No one seeks God and there was no person on earth who was seeking God and asking for a Savior. In our sin, we didn't even know we needed a Savior. It's God's mercy and grace that open our blinded eyes to the truth. Because of this, we do not serve God with the expectation of receiving anything. We serve out of love and gratitude because we are hopeless without Him, living pointless, futile lives.

[THEREFORE]

What kind of rewards do we typically expect from God? Why is it easy to fall into the trap that we deserve something from Him?

We can easily believe that we deserve things from God, but we deserve nothing, not even the breath we breathe. Romans 12:3 reminds us to not think more highly of ourselves than we ought because we do not deserve anything from God. It is all a grace.

How does it help your faith and trust of God knowing that He doesn't owe you anything?

Acts 17:25 shows us that God does not need man. He doesn't need anything. Instead, He is the one who satisfies every need. The fact that God doesn't owe us anything sets us free to love and worship Him. He is not an earthly master who rules over us in pride and arrogance. He is our master because He created us and rescued us from our sin. He is a good master who loves us and cares for us.

2. Romans 11:34-36: God owes us nothing. He needs nothing from us. We get to serve Him and it should be our joy to serve Him.

WE ARE UNWORTHY SERVANTS

BIG IDEA #3: WE WHOLEHEARTEDLY SERVE JESUS KNOWING THAT WE ARE UNWORTHY OF HIS GRACE.³

[THIS]

Salvation requires each person to recognize his or her unworthiness. We are all sinful and we all reject God. We turn away from Him and seek our own way. None of us lives for God in our own power. Yet, God willingly sent His Son to die in our place. Jesus came to the earth and lived the life we could not. During His life on earth, He experienced mistreatment and persecution, yet He willingly went to the cross on our behalf. Living a life for Jesus means loving Him with our whole being. When we love Him with our whole being, we will wholeheartedly serve Him. When we serve Him, we live to make the Gospel known to others. We live to share His truth with those who have yet to believe. We leverage our lives to make Him known and we live according to His Word, not trusting in our wisdom or pursuing the things of the world. This type of life is a life lived in whole-hearted service to Jesus.

[THEREFORE]

If we are all called to a life of service to God, how should we think about our futures and our purpose in this life?

Because we are all called to serve Jesus with all that we are and all that we have, our decisions about our future should be centered around how we can best serve Him. Matthew 22:37 teaches us that we are to love God above all else. Romans 14:8 reminds us that our lives are to be lived for God and nothing else. Our futures should be considered through the lens of serving God.

[THIS]

We serve Jesus whole-heartedly because He first served us. When He came to earth, He willingly took our place that we might be reconciled to God. We know how to serve because He has gone before us and shown us how to serve. He served others while He lived on earth, setting the perfect example for us. Our understanding of this truth leads us to love Him and to want to serve Him with all that we have and all that we are. We understand that we are unworthy of His grace and that makes us unworthy servants. We take on an attitude and posture of gratitude that we get to serve God instead of a feeling of having to do it. This causes us to use our energy, time, and resources to fulfill His purpose for our lives on this earth.

[THEREFORE]

Why is it important to remind ourselves of God's grace as we serve?

1 Corinthians 7:23 and Acts 20:28 remind us that we are all bought with a price, the life of Jesus Christ. When we remind ourselves that we don't deserve to be saved, it helps to focus our hearts and minds on what is true. When we have a right view of ourselves, we can daily fulfill the purpose God has for us. We can serve others because He first served us.

What activities and choices do you need to adjust in order to whole-heartedly serve God?

Because we are called to serve God, the activities and choices we make should place us in a position to serve God. We should view everything we do as an opportunity to serve Him and make Him known in the world.

3. Luke 17:10: Believers understand that we do not deserve God's grace. This gratitude for His grace produces a heart willing to serve Him wholeheartedly.