



The Servant John Spurling

Focus Jesus was and is the greatest servant of all. Jesus, who was in the very nature of God, did not fight for equality with God the Father. Instead, Jesus humbled Himself. Humility is the attitude of considering others better than ourselves and the key to servanthood. Jesus demonstrated this humility when He took on the nature of a servant and was made in human likeness. God resists the proud, but He gives grace to the humble.

Fun Did you do anything special during spring break this year? If yes, then share. What is one of your favorite spring break memories?

Review Key Scriptures: Acts 16:20–39; Philippians 2:5–11

- **Jesus redefines status.**

Mark 10:42–45; John 13:3–5

Roman society was completely based on status, titles, and position. Where you sat and what you wore communicated to others your level of status or success. When Jesus came, He was completely counter-cultural. Instead of insisting others serve Him, He served everyone and laid down His very life. Furthermore, Jesus also called for His disciples and followers to serve others, just as He did. Being in the very nature of God the Father, Jesus did not fight for equality with God, instead He humbled Himself.

- **Jesus demonstrates selflessness.**

Philippians 2:7

Paul writes in Philippians that Jesus made Himself nothing and took upon Himself the very nature of a servant when He was made in human likeness.

God hates pride and arrogance. Further, God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble. Pride influences us to falsely believe that we do not need God and that we can be self-sufficient. God wants to pour His grace upon us, but He can't until we humble ourselves.

- **Jesus embraces submission.**

Hebrews 2:14–15, 18

Jesus, who is the ultimate example of how we ought to live, submitted His will to God the Father and laid down His life for you and me. Humility and submission are demonstrations of true strength. Jesus did not force His own will, rather He fully submitted to the will of God when He declared, “Father ... not My will, but Yours, be done” (Luke 22:42).

Group Dynamics Idea Find out if there are any practical needs in your group that everyone can help with. For example, is someone having a baby or a surgery or going through a difficult and stressful season? Delegate someone to be in charge and consider organizing meals for this family. Or since it is springtime and many people are doing spring cleaning, consider having your group organize a garage sale and then use the money to bless someone in need, either from your group or through a ministry.

Discuss

1. What is the first thing that pops into your mind when you hear the word “status”? In what ways do you think modern-day America is similar to ancient Roman culture?
2. What would a society without status look like, sound like, and feel like?
3. In your own words, describe what humility looks like, sounds like, and feels like.
4. Who has influenced you the most in the area of humility, and how were you impacted? How would you like to be more like this person and why?
5. Do you think Jesus' humility demonstrates God's love for us? In what ways?
6. Read James 4:10. Whose responsibility is it to make us humble? How can we practically walk and grow in humility in our daily lives?
7. How would our lives, families, and communities look if we were all functioning in humility?

Take Home

As we conclude, remember the following:

- Jesus is the ultimate example of how we should live.
- Jesus humbled Himself and became a servant.
- Jesus submitted His will to God the Father.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank You for sending Your Son, Jesus. Thank You that through Jesus we are able to see what humility and servanthood look like. Help us to have a deeper revelation of what humility is. Help us to daily humble ourselves before You and serve others just as Jesus served us by laying down His life and dying on the cross. Give us more opportunities to serve You by serving those around us. In Jesus' name, Amen.

New Leader Tip The key to a successful small group community is establishing a safe environment where each member feels welcome and accepted. As the group leader, you can create a safe environment by communicating with openness, setting the expectations that the group is a safe place, and being sincere by exemplifying vulnerability.