
Ignite

"O, Heavenly Father, give us a heart like the heart of Jesus, a heart more ready to serve than be served, a heart moved by compassion towards the weak and oppressed, a heart set upon the coming of Your kingdom in the world of men and women. Help us Lord to serve in our village (DUMC) and beyond. AMEN."



SERMON SUMMARY

Note to Word Facilitator: The sermon notes below is a summary of the sermon. You may choose to further summarize it according to the needs and context of your CG members. The goal is not just to go through it “verbatim” but to prepare well, allowing members to recall and engage the message in the best possible way.

Growing Up 2: Growing Up Serving

Pastor Adrian Chong

John 13:1-17

It was just before the Passover Festival. Jesus knew that the hour had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. The evening meal was in progress, and the devil had already prompted Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus. Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him. He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" Jesus replied, "You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand." "Then, Lord," Simon Peter replied, "not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!" Jesus answered, "Those who have had a bath need only to wash their feet; their whole body is clean. And you are clean, though not every one of you." For he knew who was going to betray him, and that was why he said not every one was clean. When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place/ "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them. "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord' and rightly so, for that is what I am.

Introduction

In this series of Growing Up, we have heard of how mothers learn to entrust their children to God as they raise their children who are a new generation in God's kingdom. We learn that we are a community and it takes a whole village to raise a child in His Kingdom. Yet how do we serve each other in God's Kingdom here in DUMC? Pastor Adrian mentioned in the scriptures of John 13: 1-17 how Jesus himself came to show his disciples how to serve each other by washing their feet. It is His Love and Compassion for all of them that lead him to set the example of serving in humility by washing their feet. He in turn asked them to do the same for each other. So our meditation of the Word will change our lives as we serve God through serving one another.

**BIG IDEA : Serving one another is not only a privilege,
but a command from God**

1. Serving one another as Christ have served you *John 13:1,17*

Serving one another is a norm if we are in Christ. We don't need a great plan but the presence of the Holy Spirit and the Word and the simple act of hearing and listening to each other will enable us to serve God. Just by obeying his company's call to lead a project to help raise the standards of Primary school children in East Malaysia, Pastor Adrian was able to meet a village headman and hear about the plight of the village living in poverty and be engaged in plans to break the cycle of poverty. God touched his heart to start an economic project. In following Jesus to serve the community, hence the hearts of 42 people were touched and came to hear the message of Christ. We too can serve during a time such as this. We can serve by fellowship. Call a friend and lend your ears to comfort and pray. You will be blessed.

2. When we serve God we need to be mindful of our sinful nature *John 13:8-11 Ephesians 5:26 2Timothy3:16-17*

When Jesus told Peter that he will not be part of Christ unless Jesus washes his feet, it symbolises that we as people of God do sin or 'get dirty' and thus need to do life long washing or cleansing continually through the Holy Spirit present in us as we repent of our sinful nature. Be mindful we do not get ensnared by the Ministry until it becomes our idol. Thus let the Word equip us for every good work for His Glory. Pastor Adrian was reminded of the time when his evangelistic team in the UK was

having a Poster War against the LBGT community who was competing for the poster space but God reminded them on how they have idolised their work. Yet when he reached out to apologise to their secretary, it opened the door needed for her to seek God at their evangelistic healing rally.

3 Seeking preeminence while serving God or one another displeases God ***Luke 22:24 Matthew 19:30***

In the secular world we see many seeking to show themselves to be more superior than others by exposing their talents and also advertising their successes on social media. We see or hear of evangelists who publicise their ministry to the point that people seek them instead of God for miracle healings. Let us be mindful not to become ensnared. However, we know of many serving in ministries behind the scenes by gathering for prayer huddles before serving in their various ministries such as the DEW crew, Children's Church helpers ,volunteers for Foodbank, etc in DUMC. Even now when church is online, our volunteers are serving tirelessly to enable the congregation to worship every weekend, have children's church meetings online and delivering food to the needful. That is serving selflessly and for His Glory. Let us be reminded that we are here to serve and not to become the greatest among all.

Conclusion

God desires us to serve one another in humility, love and compassion. But let us not forget to serve out of love for God as He serves us in washing our sins our whole life long. Let us serve out of a love for God.

Thank you Jesus for saving us by dying on the cross to take away our sins so that we can have eternal life.



SERMON REFLECTION

Covid 19 has caused tremendous changes in our daily lives. Yet I wish to thank God for His protection and providence too during this season of time. Many have experienced loss of loved ones, jobs and businesses this past one year or more. Yet God is still in control and we will find peace if we totally surrender our challenges to Him. Yet it is amazing to hear of the miracles that have taken place where prayers have been answered and healing has happened when the people of God seek Him.

Can we still serve our neighbours when we are not able to go near them? The answer is YES. A phone call or message of encouragement especially to those who are alone is a simple yet meaningful way to show the love of Christ. I for one have been encouraging my colleagues especially during each lockdown with quotes of hope, faith and encouragement to persevere as this challenging time will soon change for the better. Thanks to the internet and electronic devices we still can do our part. However there are the less fortunate who do not have the same privileges; who may need assistance. We also must do our part to obey the law by following SOPs and register for vaccination to curb the spread of the virus. Truly everything is still in His time.

Meanwhile we need to seek our Heavenly Father daily to petition for His Hand to wipe out the virus. Let us serve each other through prayer for the vaccination program to be carried out for all communities in our country Malaysia.

Contributed by Michelle Chuah & Ignite Team



APPLICATION

Note to Word facilitator:

As you prepare for this session, this is a great time to pray that the Holy Spirit will guide you to use the questions efficiently. You can select, modify or entirely create your own questions, according to the needs of your CG, especially if you feel that there are too many questions than required for the allocated time. The questions below are crafted with a certain flow in mind. You could use these towards the end or insert them in between your own sermon reflection and summary.

Suggested Icebreaker Activity/Questions

Photo by Lefteris kallergis on Unsplash

- Think about the best service you have received from a restaurant. How many stars would you give for its service?
- When was the last time you served someone? How is your service compared to the service from that restaurant?

Suggested Word Introductory Questions

- What is your idea of serving?
- Is there a ministry you are currently serving with in DUMC? Do you have a serving experience to share?

Suggested Questions linked to the Sermon:

- Serving in your workplace vs serving God. Are the motivations different? How so?
- Is there anything holding you back from serving in a ministry or in CG?
- What is one area of strength that you believe God has blessed you with that is currently lying dormant? How might you still use it to serve people?
- Do you feel humbled or superior when helping someone who is going through a difficult time? Did it help you grow spiritually?
- How do you know that God is with you through the toughest times of your life?
- Has serving over time changed your initial reason(s) for serving?

Question Bank *(Extra questions you can use to bring discussion further as you see fit):*

- We tend to choose a life of convenience and comfort when our lives are already packed. How might that also play out in how we serve people? Do we tend to also choose comfort and convenience in our serving others?

Two areas of service that are in need of volunteers:

1. **Media and Production.** The call goes out for more videographers, video editors, graphic designers, copywriters, etc.
2. **Ignite Writers.** The team is expanding to serve CGs better. The call goes out to those who have a flair for writing or are willing to grow in this area.

If you have been challenged by the weekend's message to serve and have a certain level of skill set in any of the above areas, we invite you to email us here at serve@dumc.my so that we can get in touch with you soon!

For a list of ministries in DUMC, here is the link: <http://dumc.my/serve.pdf>



PRAYER



Photo by Timothy Eberly on Unsplash

Note to CGL: You (or someone you assign this portion to), may lead by praying OR reading these prayers together as a CG during worship.

Bolivia

- Righteous and wise leaders to rise and to be preserved in the face of political persecution.
- Ethnic tensions over natural resources will be resolved in an equitable and peaceful manner.
- Christian leaders to be taught and disciplined well so that the people can in turn be well-disciplined.

Henry Cheah, SIM Bolivia

- God's protection and healing against Covid-19 as Henry and his team work among the people.
- Participants from the mission seminar will put into practice what they have learnt when they return to their respective churches.

Malaysia

Pray:

- To stop the rapid spread of the Covid-19 virus and its variants in Malaysia.
- All parties will work together to make MCO 3.0 more effective.
- The public will be patient and vigilant to conscientiously observe all the SOP safeguards.
- For effective vaccination roll-out – registrations to reach the target, sufficient vaccine supply, smooth and rapid deployment.

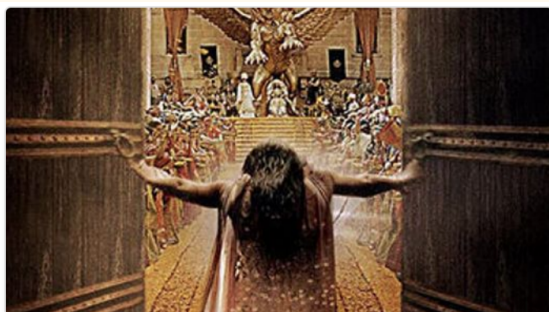


OTHER RESOURCES

*Below are some links to resources for you. Do **CLICK** on the images below!*

FEATURED

In view of our current changing landscape that affects us individually and corporately, here are some featured resources for you this month!



📄 One Night with the King

120 minutes

[youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...)

Bible

Movie



📄 Why We Keep the Sabbath

11 minutes

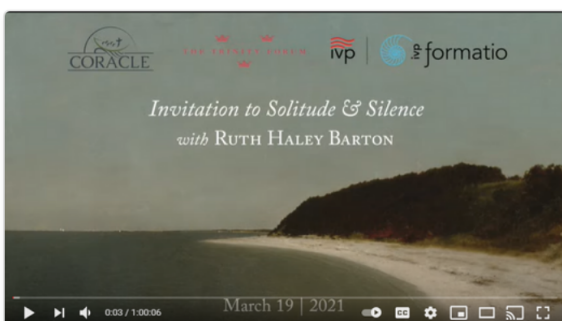
[youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...)

Sabbath keeping is about freedom.

Marva Dawn

Prayer & Spirituality

Video Clip



📄 Invitation to Solitude and Silence, with Ruth ...

60 minutes

[youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...)

Our attention, Barton believes, has become a commodity ...

Ruth Haley Barton

Prayer & Spirituality

Video Clip Podcast



📄 Overview: Esther

9 minutes

[youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...)

An overview video on the book of Esther, which breaks do...

Tim Mackie

Bible

Video Clip



OTHER RESOURCES

Discover a host of other resources curated for you here!



DUMC STORIES

Be blessed by a compilation of inspiring DUMC Stories that you can share with others!

