

Cell Material Week Beginning 27.3.06

Having a servant heart

Resources – large sheet of paper and felt tip pen. Possibly a bowl and towel, candle and soft music for reflection.

Welcome

You are on a sinking ship and there is only room for one more person on the lifeboat. Give your reasons as to why *you* should be allowed to have that last place!

(Keep this light hearted and don't let it turn into a brawl!! Did anyone offer to let someone else go ahead of them???)

Word

Do you know anyone (either personally or someone you've heard of) who you would consider to be a real servant? What do they do that makes them a servant? What qualities does that person have? Are they a weak or a strong person? (As well as famous servants such as Mother Teresa, you may think of people you know who care for elderly and sick or disabled relatives, people who are always doing things for others without blowing their own trumpet and people who give sacrificially to others.) What motivates these people?

Read John 13 vs 1-17 (You may want to have a large sheet of paper and write down the words people come up with that describe the character of Jesus.) What does this passage tell us about Jesus' character? What sort of person is he? What sort of leader is he? Why was Jesus able to serve as he did? (verse 3)

Read Philippians 2 vs 5 – 11 What does this tell us about how we should be living? Look at the words you came up with about Jesus – is your character like his?

Do you ever struggle with feelings of insecurity and lack of confidence? What sort of situations or people make you feel insecure? Why do you think that is? When we recognize our worth before God, we are able to hold our heads up and stand tall, knowing that we are loved unconditionally and that God has a special calling for each of our lives. Being a servant isn't the same as being a doormat. We are called to love others as we love ourselves – some of us have trouble loving ourselves and find it hard to ever say no to other people. Even Jesus took time away from the crowds on his own and we need our own space too to refresh ourselves ready to serve.

Do you ever feel that some jobs are beneath you? Are you willing to take on the roles that no-one else wants even if no-one else notices or thanks you? Do you realise that God notices everything you do and will reward you one day?

Worship

You may like to reflect on the servant nature of Jesus and use a bowl and towel, and possibly a candle to help you. If you are a close cell you may want to wash each other's hands as a symbol of serving each other. Play some quiet music and reflect on how close your character is to that of Jesus. Ask him for more grace, more humility and a healthy self image.

Witness

During this next week, see how many kind things you can do without anyone finding out! Remember you are living for an audience of one, so however menial the task, you can still do it as unto the Lord, knowing he sees everything. Why not agree to spend the week not grumbling about the irritating jobs you get left with – fill up the photocopier, empty the dishwasher, deliver a cake, a meal or some flowers on someone's doorstep, change the toilet roll (!), empty the bin, put the lid on the toothpaste, wash up, stack chairs, make a donation to a good cause. Imagine what a wonderful place the world would be if we all lived unselfishly and with the attitude of Christ. Talk next week about how it made you feel!