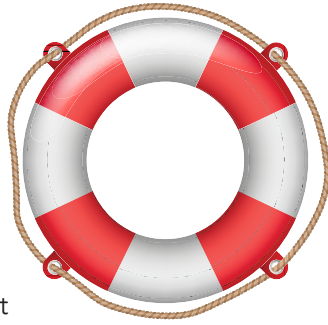


# DAY 4

If you were on a boat and you saw someone treading water, shouting, “HELP!,” what would you do? **Easy.** You’d toss them a life preserver, bring them up on deck and give them a towel.



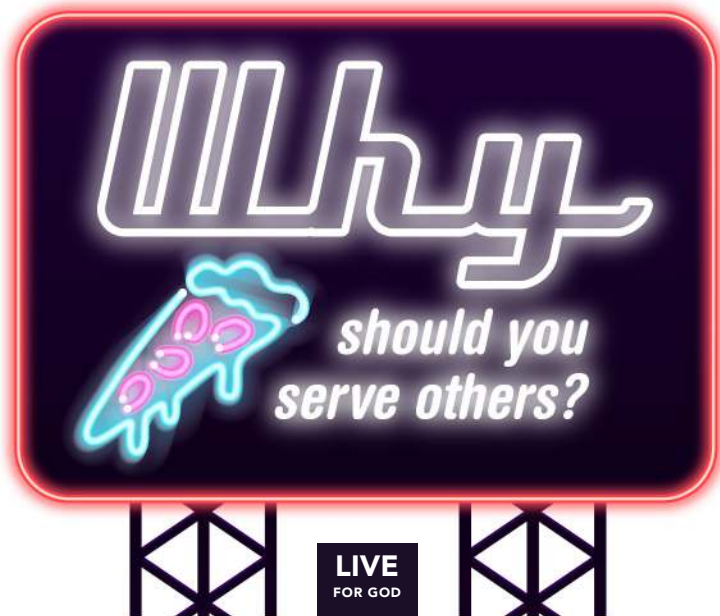
It sounds simple when it’s really obvious what the person needs. But in real life, that might not be so clear. People don’t always go around shouting “HELP!” and telling you what they need.

More than anything, service is an *attitude*. It’s deciding that you’re not just going to think about yourself. You’re going to help the people you see.

**That’s what service is: lending a hand to help someone else.**

Jesus said we should wash each other’s feet—but He didn’t necessarily mean that we should do that literally. Jesus’ point was that we should have an attitude of service. Instead of focusing on ourselves, we should be ready to do whatever it takes for other people.

Decide ahead of time that you’re going to serve—not because you’ll get something out of it, but because it’s the right thing to do. We all need a hand from time to time. *You* can be that helping hand for someone who needs it.



LIVE  
FOR GOD

# READ JOHN 13:1-17

# DAY 1

Have you ever run around barefoot in the backyard after it rained? Or have you ever stepped in a not-so-pleasant surprise when your neighbors forgot to clean up after their dog? That was actually pretty normal back in Jesus’ day. Jesus and His friends walked everywhere and they didn’t have shoes. As you might imagine, your feet would get absolutely filthy!

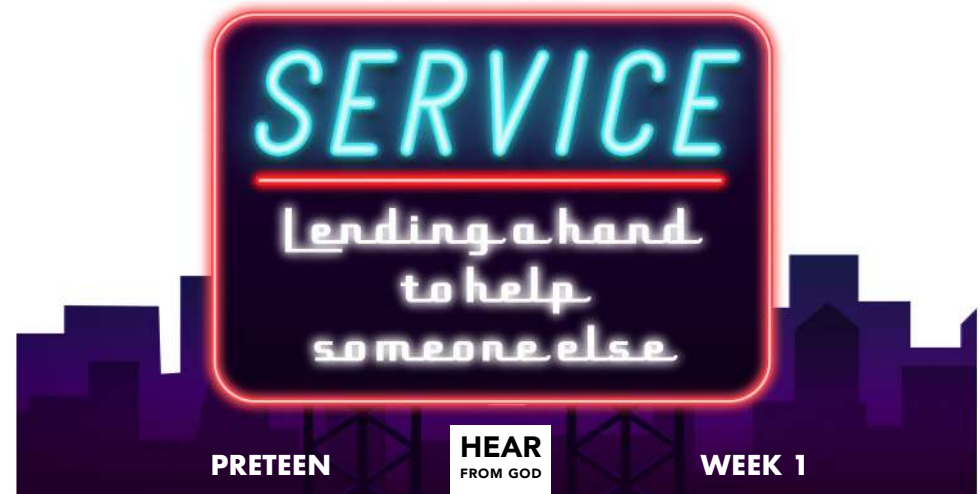
Back then, there were foot-washing servants who had the not fun, extremely disgusting job of washing people’s feet. This was important because when people would gather to eat a meal, they would sit down on cushions around a low table. That meant their feet were all up in their friends’ business, and vice versa. Someone had to wash their feet before they sat down together for dinner.

When Jesus met with His disciples to celebrate the Passover, He knew that His time with them would soon be coming to an end. Before the meal began, He did something that shocked them. He took the place of a foot-washing servant. Jesus, the Son of God, chose to wash all that gross, dirty, yuck off their feet.

**Why did He do it?**

Because He *loved* them (verse 1). He wanted to do something for them. He wanted to show them an example of what service is all about.

Jesus was willing to serve His friends in a way they would never forget. The question is, can we do that too? Can we follow His example and serve the people around us—even if it gets a little messy?



PRETEEN

HEAR  
FROM GOD

WEEK 1

## DAY 2

It's a lot easier to serve when we remember why we're doing it in the first place.

After all, serving isn't always fun. It might mean doing something that's a little gross, or maybe a little uncomfortable.

**That's why it's so good to recall how Jesus chose to serve.**

**He wasn't afraid to wash some dirty feet!**

Of course, Jesus did so much more than that. Not long after that Passover meal, He did what He came for. He went to the cross to die for the sins of the world. It was His mission. It was the reason He came—to make a way for us to have a relationship with God that will last forever.

When you're finding it hard to want to serve, when you're feeling selfish and you just don't want to do it, think of Jesus. Think of what He chose to do for you.

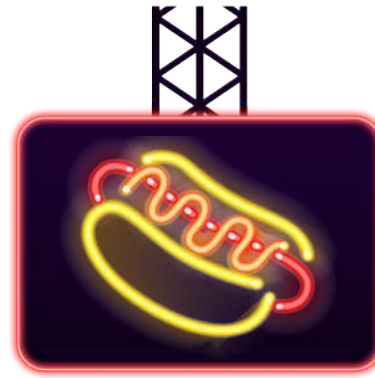
Take some time to talk to God. Be honest with Him. Tell Him about something that you feel like you *should* do for someone but you just can't seem to do it.

Ask Him for help. After all, He knows what it's like. He understands what you're going through.

***HE CAN GIVE YOU THE STRENGTH  
YOU NEED TO STEP UP AND SERVE!***



**PRAY**  
TO GOD



## DAY 3

Do you know if your mom or dad have ever waited tables before? (Maybe that's what they do for a job now; if so, bonus!)

***IF THEY HAVE, ASK THEM WHAT IT WAS LIKE.***

**Hint:** *Waiting on people can be a lot of fun. It can also be exhausting. After all, restaurant servers spend their entire day serving!*

When something goes wrong, it's their job to make it right. They have to make the customer happy—even if they had nothing to do with the problem. They have to be nice to people who aren't always nice to them.

If you think about it, we all have a service job. We're here to help people. We don't get to say, "I don't want to," or "I don't feel like it." It's about others; it's not about us.

We're here to show love to people wherever we go. We're here to put others first. It's as simple (and as difficult) as that!

**Pro tip:**

The next time you're eating at a restaurant, make sure to make eye contact with your server.

**Smile. Say "Thank you."**

A little kindness from you can make their day!

**TALK**  
ABOUT GOD