



HEART OF A SERVANT

**LCMS
SERVANT
EVENTS**

Bible Studies and Devotions
Leader's Guide

**“O Lord, I am your servant;
I am your servant, the son
of your maidservant.
You have loosed my bonds.”**

– Ps. 116:16





A Servant's Heart is ...

WILLING

(Galatians 5:13)

PRAYERFUL

(Luke 6:12)

COMPASSIONATE

(Ephesians 4:32)

BRAVE

(Joshua 1:9)

BROKEN

(Psalm 51:17)

HOPEFUL

(Romans 15:13)



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General

All songs found in *Singing Saints: Awesome Songs for Teens*, 2001: CPH; *All God's People Sing*, 1992, CPH; or *Lutheran Service Book (LSB)*, 2006: CPH

Some of the thematic work is inspired by *Thanking God for Your Servant Heart* by Jane Fryar (2004: CTA)

These devotions and Bible Studies are intended to:

- Help participants interact with God's Word.
- Be tools for building the community of servants.

There is a rhythm to the morning devotions and the evening Bible studies. That is purposeful.

At each morning devotion, participants are asked to commit to one "Servant's Heart in Action." It is a tangible action they can take, with God's help, to live out the Gospel that day. In order for this concept to be effective, it is important to check back on that in the evening Bible study.

It is important to focus on both the tasks that need to be accomplished by the team and the relationships on the team. Leaders for Servant Events need to take responsibility for helping the community form. If you don't do it, it is likely it won't happen.

An additional visual could be created by making foam board posters of the characteristics of the Servant's Heart (Prayerful, Willing, Compassionate, Brave, Broken, Hopeful). Foam core travels easily and could be hung or propped up in the meeting room.

The Pre-Event Bible Study follows the same pattern as the Evening Bible Studies.

Encourage participants to use their own Bibles during the Evening Bible Studies. One way to do that is to be sure that you are working out of yours!

Adults should participate in everything that kids participate in. Encourage any adults to share, act and study in the same way that kids do!

Morning Devotions

The responsive sentences are the same each morning.

Don't forget to help participants choose one "Servant's Heart in Action" commitment for each day.

In the morning, it is helpful for the Leader to be as chipper as possible ☺. You lead the way in setting the tone for the day when participants could possibly be grouchy and tired.

Evening Bible Studies

These always include a sharing of highs, lows and either surprises or challenges from the day. Don't skip this important step, even though it may seem repetitive. It is a chance for participants to de-brief the day. Experience shows that de-briefing increases whatever joys happened in the day and lessens whatever challenges there were.

Don't forget to check in about how the participants experienced their "Servant's Heart in Action" commitment from the morning devotion.

Commissioning Service

If you made posters with the Servant's Heart characteristics on them, you could have them as part of the setting for the Commissioning Service.

Sit in a large circle, if possible, for the Commissioning Service.

You will need paper and pens/pencils for each participant in the Commissioning Service.

The commissioning service suggests you present the commissioning gift, *Thanking God for Your Servant Heart* by Jane Fryar published by CTA. Inc. Give the adults from each participating congregation a heads up that they will be asked to present the commissioning gift to their people (ask them to write in them).

You will need six readers for the Commissioning Service.

The Commissioning Service includes a time for sharing "regrets and appreciations" — be ready to listen and to lead that discussion in a way that bears witness to God's work in the group during the Servant Event. Lots of great memories should be shared at this time.

A Servant's Heart

WARM-UP

SONG (4 MIN.)

“To Him Who by the Power” by John C. Ylvisaker
(*Singing Saints*, #32)

TEAM SLALOM (10 MIN.)

No supplies needed.

Form two teams. Have the members of each team form a circle with members standing sideways and an arm's length apart. Instruct team members to place their hands on the shoulders of the person in front of them, lean forward and arch their backs to form bridges.

Then, on your signal, have a member of each team step out of the circle, weave in and out of all the bridges in the circle and return to his or her original position. As soon as the first person returns, the next person in line may leave and slalom around the circle. Continue until everyone on the team has run through the slalom. The first team to finish wins.

HEART CONDITION (7 MIN.)

Find a partner, introduce yourselves, and share:

- One high for you from today;
- One low for you from today; and
- One way you saw God at work today.

Come back to the large group and share a few highlights from the pair conversations.

DIGGING IN (15 MIN.)

Depending on the size of your group, it might be best to do the “digging in” section in small groups.

The Bible mentions the “heart” 743 times! The heart is key to our will and emotions, and it is where Jesus lives. For our Servant Event Bible Studies this year, we will be focusing on the Servant's Heart.

Share answers to the following questions:

Q: What does the phrase “Servant's Heart” mean to you? What does it mean to have the heart of a servant?

Q: Who do you know who has this heart?

“O Lord, I am your servant.”



HEARING FROM THE WORD

“O Lord, I am your servant; I am your servant, the son of your maidservant. You have loosed my bonds.”

– Ps. 116:16

Ask everyone to read the above passage together, out loud, twice.

Spend some time sharing about being a servant in connection with this passage.

Q: What would it look like if our group was set free for God’s service at this Servant Event? What would you hear? What would you see?

Q: What are things our group needs to avoid if we are set free for God’s service at this Servant Event?

Look at the following descriptions of a Servant’s Heart:

- A servant’s heart is **willing**.
- A servant’s heart is **prayerful**.
- A servant’s heart is **compassionate**.
- A servant’s heart is **brave**.
- A servant’s heart is **broken**.
- A servant’s heart is **hopeful**.

Q: Which of these descriptions speaks most to you? Why?

Q: Can you give examples from Jesus’ life and ministry that illustrate the above characteristics (willing, prayerful, compassionate, brave, broken and hopeful)?

Read the passage out loud together, again, twice! This time, in pairs, facing each other.



PRAYER (5 MIN.)

Close in prayer, asking God to create a Servant Heart in each member of your group.

This meeting would be a great time to develop a group covenant, as well.

“You have loosed
my bonds.”

A Servant's Heart is ... **WILLING**

Leader We begin this day in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Group **Amen!**

Leader O Lord, in the morning you hear my voice;

Group **In the morning I prepare a sacrifice for you and watch.** (Ps. 5:3)

Leader But I will sing of your strength; I will sing aloud of your steadfast love in the morning.

Group **For you have been to me a fortress and a refuge in the day of my distress.** (Ps. 59:16)

All **Amen.**

SONG

“Make Me a Servant” by Kelly Willard
(*Singing Saints*, #20)

SCRIPTURE READING

“For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.” – Gal. 5:13

A WORD FROM THE HEART

Albert Schweitzer said, “I don’t know what your destiny will be, but one thing I do know: the only ones among you who will be really happy are those who have sought and found how to serve.” God asks us to serve others willingly because it’s good for the people we serve AND it’s good for us!

SHARE YOUR HEART

Q: What helps you to be willing to serve?

Q: What is the connection between our freedom in Christ and serving others?

SERVANT HEART IN ACTION AND PRAYER

In pairs or threes, knee-to-knee ... each one shares one servant heart in action they will commit to for today.

Today I will commit to (pick one):

- Praying for someone I come in contact with today that I don’t know;
- Telling someone specifically what I like about them; or
- Eating something that is good for my body.

In the same pair or three, knee-to-knee, pray this prayer aloud together:

Dear Jesus, Thank You for Your willing service to me. Make my servant heart willing to follow You and serve the people You love. Amen.



A Servant's Heart is ... **WILLING**

WARM-UP

SONG: (4 MIN.)

“Make Us One” by Tim Frusti (*Singing Saints*, #21)

THE GRAND TOTAL (10-12 MIN.)

Need worksheets (one per participant) and pens or pencils (one per participant).

Give each participant a worksheet and pen or pencil. Have them work to fill in the numbers, add them up and get their “Grand Total.” Then in the large group, go around the circle and ask each one to share their “Grand Total” as well as sharing three of the numbers they put in (any three they choose).

HEART CONDITION (7 MIN.)

Find a partner and share:

- One high for you from today;
- One low for you from today; and
- One way you saw God at work today.

Come back to the large group and share a few highlights from the pair conversations.



DIGGING IN (15 MIN.)

Depending on the size of your group, it might be best to do the “digging in” section in small groups.

Share answers to the following questions:

- Q:** What do you have to do in your life that you are the least willing to do?

- Q:** What would the people around you say that you are like when you have to do that thing?



“Work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men.”

HEARING FROM THE WORD

“And he arose and left the synagogue and entered Simon’s house. Now Simon’s mother-in-law was ill with a high fever, and they appealed to him on her behalf. And he stood over her and rebuked the fever, and it left her, and immediately she rose and began to serve them.”
– Luke 4:38–39

Spend some time sharing about the willingness to serve in connection with this passage.

Q: Do you get the impression that Jesus was “willing” to serve Simon’s mother-in-law? Why or why not?

Q: Do you get the impression that Simon’s mother-in-law was “willing” to serve the group? Why or why not?

Q: In this story, there are two kinds of serving (healing and serving food). Is one more important than the other? Why or why not?

Q: Do you know anyone who is a good example of being willing to serve? Tell the group why they are a good example.

Q: How “willing” are you to serve this week? What gets in the way of your willingness?

“Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.”
– Col. 3:23–24

Q: What does this passage say about willingness to serve? Why should we be willing?

Q: How can we help each other remain willing to serve all week?



PRAYER (5 MIN.)

Spend some time in prayer, asking God for His help to have a willing heart for service this week. Remember to pray for loved ones back home.

Perhaps do a “check-in” on **Servant Heart in Action** commitments from the morning:

- Praying for someone I come in contact with today that I don’t know;
- Telling someone specifically what I like about them; or
- Eating something that is good for my body.



The Grand Total

Fill each box with the correct number and then total your score. When everyone is finished, go around the group, share your total and three of the numbers you wrote down (any three you choose).

<hr/>	+	<hr/>	+	<hr/>	-
The number of car accidents you've been in		The number of pictures in your wallet		The number of pets you have	
<hr/>	+	<hr/>	-	<hr/>	+
The number of pets you have		The number of siblings you have (including stepbrothers and stepsisters)		The number of bones you've broken	
<hr/>	+	<hr/>	-	<hr/>	-
Day of the month you were born on		Number of balls you can juggle		Number of TV's in your house	
<hr/>	=	<hr/>			
Number of times you've been sent to the principal's office		GRAND TOTAL			

A Servant's Heart is ... **PRAYERFUL**

Leader We begin this day in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Group **Amen!**

Leader O Lord, in the morning you hear my voice;

Group **In the morning I prepare a sacrifice for you and watch.** (Ps. 5:3)

Leader But I will sing of your strength; I will sing aloud of your steadfast love in the morning.

Group **For you have been to me a fortress and a refuge in the day of my distress.** (Ps. 59:16)

All **Amen.**

SONG

“To You, O Lord” by Krista Wiger (*Singing Saints*, #33)

SCRIPTURE READING

“In these days he went out to the mountain to pray, and all night he continued in prayer to God.”
– Luke 6:12

A WORD FROM THE HEART

JC Ryle said: “Fear not because your prayer is stammering, your words feeble, and your language poor. Jesus can understand you. Just as a mother understands the first lisping of her infant, so does the blessed Savior understand sinners. He can read a sigh, and see a meaning in a groan.” Jesus (the Son of God!) felt the need to pray — sometimes all night long. With His example, and the promise of God to listen to us, what are we waiting for?

SHARE YOUR HEART

Q: What do you usually talk with God about?

Q: What is the connection between serving others and talking to God?

SERVANT HEART IN ACTION AND PRAYER

In pairs or threes, knee-to-knee ... each one shares one servant heart in action they will commit to for today.

Today I will commit to (pick one, two or all three):

- Praying before I fall asleep tonight;
- Praying for someone back home; or
- Praying with someone else.

In the same pair or three, knee-to-knee, pray this prayer aloud together:

Dear Jesus, Help me this day through Your Word and Spirit to turn my heart to You in prayer many times. Thank You for wanting me to have that kind of relationship with You. Amen.



A Servant's Heart is ... **PRAYERFUL**

WARM-UP **SONG:** (4 MIN.)

“You Are My All in All” by Dennis L. Jernigan
(*Singing Saints*, #36)

ELECTRICITY (10 MIN.)

Need one saltshaker and two coins.

Divide the group into two teams. Each team sits side-by-side in a line, facing the other team; each person crosses their arms in front of them and holds the hands of the people on either side. One team is “heads”; one team is “tails.” At one end, a leader flips a coin. If it comes up heads, the first person on the “heads” team squeezes the hand of the next person and then they squeeze of the next person, and down the line, until the last person feels the squeeze and quickly picks up the saltshaker. If they are right, they send the first person back to the end of the line where the saltshaker is. If they are wrong (it was really “tails”), then they send the person at the end of the line back to where the saltshaker is. The first team to move their whole line in a positive direction wins.

Ask the group the following questions:

Q: What does this game teach you about communication and teamwork?

Q: Can you learn anything about prayer from this game?

Say, Talking to God regularly is a big part of having a Servant's Heart. It is a gift that God gives us...to spend time with Him! We are His children — He listens! He speaks to us in His Word. We pray — He listens!

HEART CONDITION (7 MIN.)

Find a partner and share:

- One high for you from today;
- One surprise for you from today; and
- One way you saw God's love at work today.

Come back to the large group and share a few highlights from the pair conversations.



“He went out to the mountain to pray.”



DIGGING IN (8 MIN.)

Depending on the size of your group, it might be best to do the “digging in” section in small groups.

Share answers to the following questions:

Q: How would you describe your prayer life right now (every day at a certain time, non-existent, only when I’m in trouble, really great, etc.)?

HEARING FROM THE WORD

“But he would withdraw to desolate places and pray.”
– Luke 5:16

“In these days he went out to the mountain to pray, and all night he continued in prayer to God.”
– Luke 6:12

“Now it happened that as he was praying alone, the disciples were with him. And he asked them, “Who do the crowds say that I am?””
– Luke 9:18

“And he withdrew from them about a stone’s throw, and knelt down and prayed.”
– Luke 22:41

Spend some time sharing about the prayerful service in connection with these passages.

Q: If Jesus was the Son of God, why did He need to pray so much?

Q: Why do you think Jesus so often “withdrew” from people to pray?

Q: Do you have a particular place you go to pray? If not, where might you try that?

Q: Jesus also prayed in a small group (Luke 9:18, above). What would help you pray in a small group?

Q: What is the connection between prayer and serving others?



PRAYER (12 MIN.)

Ask everyone to find their own spot in the room, perhaps facing a wall or lying down, so as to avoid distraction. Say, *Tonight we’re going to follow Jesus’ example of a Servant Heart and spend time with God, in prayer. I will speak a topic for prayer, followed by silence. During that silence, please talk to God. He is listening to you!*

Give a solid two minutes between each prayer topic (it might seem like forever!). Encourage the kids to just really talk to God.

- For the young people from my home church (those here and those not here).
- For the poor in the United States and in the world.
- For my school and the kids in my school.
- For my friends (those here and those not here).

Leader, close the prayer time with a general prayer, thanking God for spending time with us.

Perhaps do a “check-in” on **Servant Heart in Action** commitments from the morning:

- Praying before I fall asleep tonight;
- Praying for someone back home; or
- Praying with someone else.

A Servant's Heart is ... **COMPASSIONATE**

Leader We begin this day in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit

Group **Amen!**

Leader O Lord, in the morning you hear my voice;

Group **In the morning I prepare a sacrifice for you and watch.** (Ps. 5:3)

Leader But I will sing of your strength; I will sing aloud of your steadfast love in the morning.

Group **For you have been to me a fortress and a refuge in the day of my distress.** (Ps. 59:16)

All **Amen.**

SONG

“Open the Eyes of My Heart” by Paul Baloche (*Singing Saints*, #24)

SCRIPTURE READING

“Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.” – Eph. 4:32

A WORD FROM THE HEART

Frederick Buechner said: “Compassion is sometimes the fatal capacity for feeling what it is like to live inside somebody else’s skin. It is the knowledge that there can never really be any peace and joy for me until there is peace and joy finally for you too.” God is compassionate to us in Jesus and asks us to be compassionate to others. This week, we are learning to serve others, whether they “deserve it” or not.

SHARE YOUR HEART

Q: What makes it hard to practice compassion, at times?

Q: For whom do you feel compassion this week? Why?

SERVANT HEART IN ACTION AND PRAYER

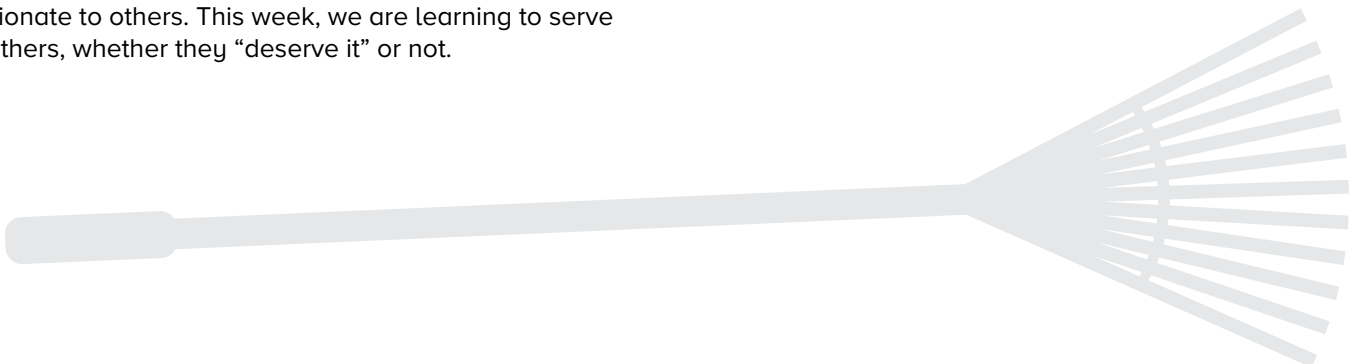
In pairs or threes, knee-to-knee ... each one shares one servant heart in action they will commit to for today.

Today I will commit to (pick one):

- Asking God to help me not to judge those I am serving;
- Listening to some Christian music; or
- Giving away a snack or drink to someone who needs it.

In the same pair or three, knee-to-knee, pray this prayer aloud together:

Dear Jesus, Thank You for Your compassion towards me, in my sin. Give me Your servant’s heart of compassion today for those I serve and for those I serve alongside. Amen.



A Servant's Heart is ... **COMPASSIONATE**

WARM-UP

SONG: (4 MIN.)

“Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love” by Chereponi
(*Singing Saints*, #17)
(*All God's People Sing*, #141)

COMMON GROUND (10 MIN.)

Need paper and pencil (one per team)

Divide group into two or more equal-sized teams. Give each team a sheet of paper and a pencil. Tell teams their challenge is to list everything they can think of that all team members have in common. For example, team members might all attend the same school, have the same favorite TV show, etc. The only rule is that they can't list similar body parts, like “We all have two legs, a heart and a nose.”

Tell teams they have four minutes to create their lists, so they need to work quickly. Let them know when they have one minute to go. When the time is up, find out which team has the longest list and ask team members to read the similarities they listed. Then ask teams who had similarities not already listed to share them. To conclude, discuss the following questions in the large group:

Q: How easy was it to discover something in common with another team member? With every team member?

Q: What does this reveal about the extent to which we're alike? The ways in which we're all different?

Q: How can our similarities draw us closer together? How can our differences help us grow closer?

Say, To have compassion for others means that we understand that even though we might be different in some ways, we are all loved by Jesus and need loving care.

HEART CONDITION (7 MIN.)

Find a partner and share:

- One high for you from today;
- One low for you from today; and
- One way you saw God at work today.

Come back to the large group and share a few highlights from the pair conversations.

“When I was brought low, he saved me.”





DIGGING IN (15 MIN.)

Depending on the size of your group, it might be best to do the “digging in” section in small groups.

Look at these definitions:

- **“Compassion:** Sympathy for the suffering of others, often including a desire to help.” (*Encarta Dictionary*)
- **“Empathy:** Understanding of another’s feelings; the ability to identify with and understand somebody else’s feelings or difficulties.” (*Encarta Dictionary*)

Share answers to the following questions:

Q: Is compassion a feeling, an action or both? Can you be compassionate even when you don’t *feel* compassionate?

Q: What kinds of people are the hardest for you to have compassion for?

HEARING FROM THE WORD

“Then I called on the name of the Lord: “O Lord, I pray, deliver my soul!” Gracious is the Lord, and righteous; our God is merciful. The Lord preserves the simple; when I was brought low, he saved me.” – Ps. 116:4–6

Spend some time sharing about compassionate service in connection with this passage.

Q: How has God shown compassion to you? Be specific if you can.

Q: There are at least three great words in this passage: “gracious,” “righteous” and “compassion.” As God is “righteous” (perfect and right), He wouldn’t necessarily have to be “gracious” and “merciful,” but He is. What helps you get in touch with the ways God has been merciful to you?

“Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.” – Eph. 4:32

Q: What does this passage say about WHY we are compassionate to others?

Q: Who, specifically, are you compassionate towards this week?

Q: How, specifically, are you practicing compassion this week?



PRAYER (5 MIN.)

Close in prayer, especially reflecting on the events of the day in connection with compassion.

Perhaps do a “check-in” on **Servant Heart in Action** commitments from the morning:

- Asking God to help me not to judge those I am serving;
- Listening to some Christian music; or
- Giving away a snack or drink to someone who needs it.

A Servant's Heart is ... **BRAVE**

Leader We begin this day in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Group Amen!

Leader O Lord, in the morning you hear my voice;

Group In the morning I prepare a sacrifice for you and watch. (Ps. 5:3)

Leader But I will sing of your strength; I will sing aloud of your steadfast love in the morning.

Group For you have been to me a fortress and a refuge in the day of my distress. (Ps. 59:16)

All Amen.

SONG

“Do Lord!: Psalm 27” arranged by John Ylvisaker
(*Singing Saints*, #10)

SCRIPTURE READING

“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.”
— *Joshua 1:9*

A WORD FROM THE HEART

Ambrose Redmoon said, “Courage is not the absence of fear, but rather the judgment that something else is more important than fear.” Sometimes serving God means doing things that are outside our “comfort zone” or even scary. Joshua reminds us that God is with us and because of THAT, we can be brave and go where He calls us to go and serve whom He asks us to serve.

SHARE YOUR HEART

Q: What about this week has called for courage on your part?

Q: Why is it important to depend on God’s strength rather than our own?

SERVANT HEART IN ACTION AND PRAYER

In pairs or threes, knee-to-knee ... each one shares one servant heart in action they will commit to for today.

Today I will commit to (pick one):

- Doing one thing that I would normally be nervous or afraid to do, asking God for courage;
- Noticing someone else’s bravery and thank them for their example; or
- Talking to someone that I wouldn’t normally talk to.

In the same pair or three, knee-to-knee, pray this prayer aloud together:

Dear Jesus, Give me the courage today to serve You in new ways. Thank You for the knowledge that You are always with me. Amen.

A Servant's Heart is ... **BRAVE**

WARM-UP

SONG: (4 MIN.)

“Here I Am, Lord” by Daniel Schutte
(*Singing Saints*, #13)

ANIMAL KINGDOM (10 MIN.)

No supplies needed.

Ask everyone to sit or stand in a circle. Ask each person to introduce themselves and say which of the following animals they most identify with: eagle, dolphin, lion, sparrow or whale. (Use fewer animals if you have less than 10 people.) Then ask participants to group themselves according to the animals they chose (combine the two smallest groups if either has fewer than three members). Direct kids to answer the following three questions in their small groups:

Q: What is one thing all of you have experienced that many other people have not?

Q: What is one thing that all of you believe in?

Q: What is one thing all of you are afraid of?

Have volunteers share their groups' answers to the questions and share the unique experiences of their group members.

Say, *One thing common to all human beings is fear. We are all afraid, at one time or another. In order to be a servant of God, we need His courage!*

HEART CONDITION (7 MIN.)

Find a partner and share:

- One high for you from today;
- One surprise for you from today; and
- One way you saw God at work today.

Come back to the large group and share a few highlights from the pair conversations.





DIGGING IN (15 MIN.)

Depending on the size of your group, it might be best to do the “digging in” section in small groups.

Q: What were you afraid of when you were little?

Q: What helps you when you are afraid?

Joshua led God’s people into the Promised Land. It was hard! There were reports of giants in the land and Joshua knew that the people living there would not give up their land easily. As a servant leader, Joshua knew that the people needed a word from God.

HEARING FROM THE WORD

“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.”
– Joshua 1:9

Share answers to the following questions:

Q: How can fear lead to discouragement?

Q: According to this passage, what is the reason we can have strength and courage?

Q: How can you apply this passage to this week’s Servant Event? Have you needed to be brave in some way? How or why?

Check out the following passages about fear and courage:

- Matthew 14:27
- Acts 23:11
- Hebrews 3:6

Q: What do you learn from each?

Q: God says “do not be afraid” 366 times in the Bible. Why so many times, do you think?



PRAYER (5 MIN.)

Close in prayer, especially asking God for courage to live as His servants.

Perhaps do a “check-in” on **Servant Heart in Action** commitments from the morning:

- Doing one thing that I would normally be nervous or afraid to do, asking God for courage;
- Noticing someone else’s bravery and thank them for their example; or
- Talking to someone that I wouldn’t normally talk to.

A Servant's Heart is ... **BROKEN**

Leader We begin this day in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Group **Amen!**

Leader O Lord, in the morning you hear my voice;

Group **In the morning I prepare a sacrifice for you and watch.** (Ps. 5:3)

Leader But I will sing of your strength; I will sing aloud of your steadfast love in the morning.

Group **For you have been to me a fortress and a refuge in the day of my distress.** (Ps. 59:16)

All **Amen.**

SONG

“Change My Heart, O God” by Eddie Espinosa
(*Singing Saints*, #9)

SCRIPTURE READING

“*The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.*” – Ps. 51:17

A WORD FROM THE HEART

Eugene O’Neill said, “Man is born broken. He lives by mending. The grace of God is glue.” Often our striving to present ourselves as “OK” and not needing anything or anyone gets in the way of our servant’s heart. It is far better to admit our brokenness to God, who loves us and forgives us. This is the best preparation for service!

SHARE YOUR HEART

Q: What makes it hard for you to admit that you are broken in some ways?

Q: How can confessing our brokenness help us to be the servants God has called us to be?

SERVANT HEART IN ACTION AND PRAYER

In pairs or threes, knee-to-knee ... each one shares one servant heart in action they will commit to for today.

Today I will commit to (pick one):

- Admitting a mistake, out loud, to someone else;
- Confessing my sins to God before I go to sleep tonight; or
- Telling the truth about how I’m feeling or what I’m thinking about today.

In the same pair or three, knee-to-knee, pray this prayer aloud together:

Dear Jesus, I am broken by sin, and I need Your grace today. Thank You for loving me and giving me Your servant’s heart. Amen.

A Servant's Heart is ... **BROKEN**

WARM-UP

SONG: (4 MIN.)

“Make Me a Servant” by Kelly Willard
(*Singing Saints*, #20)

THIS, THAT AND THE OTHER (10 MIN.)

No supplies needed.

Divide into pairs and teach the following variation on “Rock, Paper, Scissors”: Cliff, Climber, Ground. Once you’ve practiced it a bit, have a play-off and get to a final winner (best two out of three each round).

Cliff: arms held straight up

Climber: One fist on a hip, the other fist held out in front.

Ground: both arms held straight out to the sides

- Cliff beats ground (rises above it).
- Climber beats cliff (climbs it).
- Ground beats climber (by squashing the climber after a fall).

Say, *These kind of games display a truth about life: we all get broken at one time or another. We don't always “win.”*

HEART CONDITION (7 MIN.)

Find a partner and share:

- One high for you from today;
- One low for you from today; and
- One way you saw God at work today.

Come back to the large group and share a few highlights from the pair conversations.

DIGGING IN (15 MIN.)

Depending on the size of your group, it might be best to do the “digging in” section in small groups.

Q: We usually think of a “broken heart” as romance-gone-wrong. Are there other ways a heart can be broken? What are they?

Q: How do you know that you are sinful?



HEARING FROM THE WORD

“The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.” – Ps. 51:17

Share answers to the following questions:

Q: Read all of Psalm 51 aloud. What kind of brokenness is David writing about here?

Q: What evidence is there, in your life or your thoughts, that you are a sinful being (Ps. 51:3)?

Q: When we admit our brokenness, what are we to do with it (Ps. 51: 17)?

Q: Has there been a time in your life when you really sensed God healing your brokenness? What happened?

Q: What is the connection between brokenness and service (Ps. 51: 10)?

Q: Is there any brokenness you need to confess to-night (Ps. 51:6)?

PRAYER (5 MIN.)

Close in prayer, especially asking God to heal the brokenness in our lives so that we might serve Him with our renewed spirit.

Perhaps do a “check-in” on **Servant Heart in Action** commitments from the morning:

- Admitting a mistake, out loud, to someone else;
- Confessing my sins to God before I go to sleep tonight; or
- Telling the truth about how I’m feeling or what I’m thinking about today.



“A broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.”

A Servant's Heart is ... **HOPEFUL**

Leader We begin this day in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Group Amen!

Leader O Lord, in the morning you hear my voice;

Group In the morning I prepare a sacrifice for you and watch. (Ps. 5:3)

Leader But I will sing of your strength; I will sing aloud of your steadfast love in the morning.

Group For you have been to me a fortress and a refuge in the day of my distress. (Ps. 59:16)

All Amen.

SONG

“One Name” author unknown (*Singing Saints*, #23)

SCRIPTURE READING

“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.”
— Rom. 15:13

A WORD FROM THE HEART

Someone said, “Hope is putting faith to work when doubting would be easier.” As God’s servants, we always believe that life could be better for those we serve because of Him. Hope is the gift that God gives us to pass on to those around us.

SHARE YOUR HEART

Q: What is one of your biggest hopes for the people and/or places you have served this week?

Q: What is one of your biggest hopes as you return home?

SERVANT HEART IN ACTION AND PRAYER

In pairs or threes, knee-to-knee ... each one shares one servant heart in action they will commit to for today.

Today I will commit to (pick one):

- Telling someone here what I hope for them;
- Talking to God about the hopes I have for my own life and asking for His help and guidance; or
- Being an optimistic member of the serving team today, no matter what happens.

In the same pair or three, knee-to-knee, pray this prayer aloud together:

Dear Jesus, Give me Your hope today and help me to share it with others around me. Thank You that You are the God of hope! Amen.



A Servant's Heart is ... **HOPEFUL**

WARM-UP

SONG: (4 MIN.)

“Lord, I Lift Your Name on High” by Rick Founds
(*Singing Saints*, #19)

CATERPILLAR RACE (10 MIN.)

No supplies needed.

Form teams of equal size, 5-7 players (if you have a small group, teams of 3 also work well). Have participants think up one-syllable names for their teams. Then line teams up next to each other behind a starting line. Instruct team members to place their hands on the shoulders of the team members in front of them and race to a finish line according to the following rules of movement:

- The first person in line may hop one step forward. Then the next person in line may hop one step forward. Continue down the line until the last person in line hops one step forward. After the last person hops, he or she must shout the team's name. Then the whole team may hop one step forward at the same time. Repeat this process to move the caterpillar along.
- Players must keep their hands in front of them at all times during the race.

- Players may move forward only by hopping one step forward with both feet at once.
- If a team breaks any of the above rules, it must return to the starting line and start again.

When the game is over, say, *Living in hope is living one step at a time, knowing that God has good in mind for your life and the lives of the people you serve!*

HEART CONDITION (7 MIN.)

Find a partner and share:

- One high for you from today;
- One surprise for you from today; and
- One way you saw God at work today.

Come back to the large group and share a few highlights from the pair conversations.



“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace.”



DIGGING IN (15 MIN.)

Depending on the size of your group, it might be best to do the “digging in” section in small groups.

Q: Have you ever felt hopeless? Why?

Q: How would you define the word “hope”?

HEARING FROM THE WORD

“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.” – Rom. 15:13

Share answers to the following questions:

Q: There are four (at least) great words in this passage: hope, joy, peace and power. Hope is there twice. Talk together about your understanding of those words. What do they mean to the world? What do they mean in a Christian context?

Q: What does it mean to “abound in” hope?

Q: Who do you know that is in need of hope? How might you carry a message of hope to them?

Q: Do you think of God as the “God of hope”? Do you think the kids you know think of God as the “God of hope”? If not, what do they think He is the God of?

Q: How has hope been a part of this Servant Event? In your group? In the place where you have been serving?

Q: How will you take God’s hope home with you, specifically?

Q: How can you remind each other of hope when you get back home?



PRAYER (5 MIN.)

Close in prayer, especially focusing on gratitude for a great week.

Perhaps do a “check-in” on **Servant Heart in Action** commitments from the morning:

- Telling someone here what I hope for them;
- Talking to God about the hopes I have for my own life and asking for His help and guidance; or
- Being an optimistic member of the serving team today, no matter what happens.

Commissioning Service

(Make sure that pencils/pens and small pieces of paper are available for every participant. Also have some kind of gift to send home with each participant ready to present. Also make the space as beautiful as possible: candles, a table or altar up front or in the center of the circle.)

Leader We gather in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit,

Group Amen!

SONG

“I Will Call Upon the Lord” by Michael O’Shields
(Singing Saints, #16)

Leader We gather in the presence of Jesus, who came as a Servant, to thank Him for the chance to serve others in His name this week.

Group Thank You, Jesus!

Leader We ask God for a Servant’s Heart:

Group A Servant’s Heart is willing.

Reader 1 “For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.” – Gal. 5:13

Group A Servant’s Heart is prayerful.

Reader 2 “In these days he went out to the mountain to pray, and all night He continued in prayer to God.” – Luke 6:12

Group A Servant’s Heart is compassionate.

Reader 3 “Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.” – Eph. 4:32

SONG

“Make Me a Servant” by Kelly Willard
(Singing Saints, #20)

Group A Servant’s Heart is brave.

Reader 4 “Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.” – Joshua 1:9

Group A Servant’s Heart is broken.

Reader 5 “The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, You will not despise.” – Ps. 51:17

Group A Servant’s Heart is hopeful.

Reader 6 “May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.” – Rom. 15:13

(If you have not already done so, distribute small pieces of paper and writing utensils to all participants.)

Leader Take a moment to reflect on your week (pause for people to do so). Having reflected on God’s work this week, take a moment to write down something that you would like to offer to God as you return home. Perhaps it is a way that you will serve Him in your family or your group of friends back home or in your church. Perhaps it is an attitude that you want to change as a result of this week or a relationship that you want to impact for Him, with His help. Write it down.

Time for reflection and writing.

SONG

“Give Thanks” by Henry Smith (*Singing Saints*, #12)

Leader Please hang on to your piece of paper for a moment, while we share in the larger group. In every experience, we have both regrets (those things that we are sorry for or wish had not happened) and appreciations (those things and people that we are grateful to God for). Let’s take a moment to share in the larger group some of our regrets and appreciations. You are also welcome to share what you are offering to God, today, if you’d like to.

A TIME OF SHARING

Leader Thank you for sharing. Now, as we sing, you are welcome to come forward and leave your offering on this table as a sign that you are responding to God’s action in your life this week with an offering to Him. As you do that, stop and receive a gift to take home to remind you of God’s work in you and through you this week.

As participants come forward, adults from each church can present remembrance gifts from the Servant Event.

SONGS

“You Are My All in All” by Dennis L. Jernigan (*Singing Saints*, #36)

“Here I Am, Lord” by Daniel Schutte (*Singing Saints*, #13)

PRAYER TIME

Including prayers of thanksgiving for the Servant Event as well as petitions for the return home to serve.

THE LORD’S PRAYER

Leader The Lord bless us as we return home with a Servant’s Heart!

Group **Amen!**

SENDING SONG

“Lord, Whose Love through Humble Service” (LSB #848)

