

SESSION 7 | REVIVING SERVICE _____

Before beginning the study, pray aloud, using either your own words or the words provided.

Heavenly Father, revive us with Your love!

Light dawns in the darkness for the upright; he is gracious, merciful, and righteous. It is well with the man who deals generously and lends; who conducts his affairs with justice. For the righteous will never be moved; he will be remembered forever. (Psalm 112:4-6)

Father, we are revived in Your love! May we display Your love in our relationship with You and our relationships with others. Amen.

GOD INVITES HIS PEOPLE TO SERVE OTHERS

Read the following text aloud.

Revived people are servants. Jesus redefines our status, telling us that the greatest are those who serve (Luke 22:24-27). To serve is not demeaning. Rather, it is an honor to serve others. Jesus' disciples absorbed Jesus' teaching and expounded upon it in their letters to the early church. "Bear with one another," Paul says (Colossians 3:12-17).

James replies, "What good is faith without works?" (James 2:14-26). Both men illustrate that faith in Jesus is demonstrated through self-sacrifice. **Revived people are servants.** We model our lives on Jesus, "who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant" (Philippians 2:6-7).

SCRIPTURE STUDY *10 minutes*

Either read the text aloud or invite a volunteer to read.

¹For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery ... ¹³For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. ¹⁴For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁵But if you bite and devour one another, watch out that you are not consumed by one another. (Galatians 5:1, 13-15)

Discuss at least one of the following two questions.

1. How does Paul define freedom?
2. In what manner are freedom, love, and service related to one another?

Revived people are servants. We receive God's love by grace through faith. In gratitude, we respond with love—love for God, for neighbor, and for the world. We serve, because we have been revived by the Spirit of Christ.

ACTIVITY *10 minutes*

In smaller groups of 2-3 people, talk about serving others.

Identify ways you can serve in your neighborhood, church, and/or city. What needs do you know of? How can you meet those needs?

DISCUSSION *10 minutes*

Return to the large group to discuss the following two questions.

1. What needs did you identify?
2. Which needs interest you the most? What next step will you take to meet those needs?

CONCLUSION

Revived people are servants. They follow Jesus, who did not come to be served, but to serve and to give His life for His people.

Ask a volunteer to close with prayer.