



WEEKLY STUDY

Week Six

Our summer series called Pathways is introducing eight practices that help us get closer to the heart of God. So far, we've explored the practices of solitude, fasting, worship, studying God's Word, and spiritual friendship. This week we learned about the pathway of service.

If you are studying with your Providence Small Group, you can share from daily readings as well as the additional questions at the bottom of this guide. If you would like to get connected to a Providence Small Group visit prov.church/signup and click on Small Groups.

Find a time each day to read the passage of scripture. Follow the daily prayer prompt and then pray this or your own prayer.

*God, you have called me to live a life in Christ. Christ came to serve.
Give me passion and purpose as I go to be the hands and feet of Christ in this world.
Amen.*

DAILY STUDY

MONDAY: MARK 10.42-45

Jesus called them together and said, "You know that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them."⁴³ Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant,⁴⁴ and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all.⁴⁵ For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

- Jesus has changed the whole paradigm of power and servant. The great ones are those who serve. How does that resonate today? Where do you see that being lived out? Where do you find that to be lacking? What does it mean to follow Jesus by serving?
- *Pray for a servant's heart.*

TUESDAY: 1 PETER 4.10-11a

Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. ¹¹ If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides...

- We all have received gifts that were meant to serve other people. Using them is a matter of stewardship. Have you ever served someone else simply out of your own power, strength and ability? Have you ever served someone else with the strength God provides? What is the difference?
- *As you pray, ask God to reveal the gifts that have been given to you that He intends for the service of others.*

WEDNESDAY: LUKE 6.35

But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back.

- It's always easier to serve people that you like, agree with, and love. Jesus says love your enemies. That means that they are among those that we are called to serve. Who are the people that feel like enemies in your heart? How can you serve them?
- *Pray for opportunities to serve your enemies. Pray also for a heart that loves them well.*

THURSDAY: ACTS 20.35

In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'

- Jesus lived in a time of religious understanding where a person could and must earn their way to God. In this series you have heard that there are pathways that all together can lead us to the heart of God. But they are not things to check off a list, rather they are invitations to explore the heart of God for us. Serving others is one way of understanding the heart of God.
- *Pray that you would always look first to bless others rather than to be blessed by others.*

FRIDAY: EPHESIANS 2.10

For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

- This language from Ephesians reminds us of language in Genesis. We were created out of dust and given life by the very breath of God...for a purpose. And the purpose was one another, relationship, seeing the need, and acting with compassion.
- *Pray for vision to see the path laid out before you to do the good works you were created to do.*

SATURDAY: JOHN 13.12-16

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. ¹³“You call me ‘Teacher’ and ‘Lord,’ and rightly so, for that is what I am. ¹⁴Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another’s feet. ¹⁵I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. ¹⁶Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him.

- The thing about our God is that He didn’t just give us a list of commands, He demonstrated how to live as one of God’s people. God showed us how to serve one another. God showed us what it looks like to humbly serve one another.
- *Pray for humility to faithfully stoop and serve your neighbor.*

- Small Group Discussion Questions will Resume in August -