

Introduction: *Engage your group with the overall theme.*

Write the following quotation on the board: “How do you know if you are a servant? By how you react when someone treats you as one.”

Ask your students to read it and then comment. The goal of this exercise is to think about what a servant is and whether we truly are being one.

{Source: Dawson Trotman, “Quotes,” Goodreads.com [online], 2016 [cited 19 August 2016]. Available from the Internet:
https://www.goodreads.com/author/quotes/588525.Dawson_Trotman.}

Part 1: *Engage using “Think-Pair-Share” technique.*

Read the following aloud:

“When I was twelve years old our family moved to a town in the desert. After gym classes in the hot air at my new school, we rushed for the drinking fountain. Being skinny and young for my grade, I sometimes got pushed out of the way while waiting in line. One day my friend Jose, who was big and strong for his age, saw this happening. He stepped in and stuck out a strong arm to clear my way. “Hey!” he exclaimed, “You let Banks get a drink first!” I never had trouble at the drinking fountain again.

Jesus understood what it was like to face the ultimate unkindness of others. The Bible tells us, “He was despised and rejected by mankind” (Isa. 53:3). But Jesus was not just a victim, He also became our advocate. By giving His life, Jesus opened a “new and living way” for us to enter into a relationship with God (Heb. 10:20). He did for us what we could never do for ourselves, offering us the free gift of salvation when we repent of our sins and trust in Him.

Jesus is the best friend we could ever have. He said, “Whoever comes to me I will never drive away” (John 6:37). Others may hold us at arm’s length or even push us away, but God has opened His arms to us through the cross. How strong is our Savior!

Think-Pair-Share: After you read it, ask them to think about its meaning.

“**Think** for 30 seconds on the meaning. What is the author’s emphasis? Discuss this in **pairs** with a person on your left or right who is not your spouse.” Pause for 60 seconds. Call on 3-4 pairs to **share** one idea.

{Source: James Banks, “Our Best Friend,” Our Daily Bread [online], 10 April 2016 [cited 19 August 2016]. Available from the Internet: <http://odb.org/?s=rejected>.}

Part 2: Check for understanding of main theme.

This section emphasizes *submission*, a word that is often misunderstood. Lead your students to divide into 2-3 groups and give each group a copy of the following quote: “Submission is not subjugation or slavery. Submission is a voluntary surrender to authority, and it is motivated by love and not fear.”

Ask them to talk about its meaning and instruct each group to share their insights, especially in relation to Christ’s substitutionary atonement for us.

[Source: Warren Wiersbe, *Ten Power Principles for Christian Service* (Grand Rapids: Baker, 1997), 49.]

Part 3: Check for understanding using songs.

Ask your group members to give their favorite song or hymn that emphasizes the exaltation of Christ. Some examples might be “Lord, I Lift Your Name on High,” “How Great Is Our God,” “How Great Thou Art,” “Mighty to Save,” or “In Christ Alone.” Instruct them to share either why they chose the song or a sample lyric.

Conclusion: Challenge your students to live the lesson.

The emphasis of the lesson was on Jesus as the Suffering Servant. As Christians, we are called to be like Him and to serve the world, even when the world doesn’t want us to serve. Ask your students to examine their lives to see if they are truly servants or if they are mainly the served. Challenge them to spend time with God this week examining this issue.

Teaching Tip of the Week

Every godly teacher wants to impact their students’ lives in such a way that it helps them change for the better. Telling people what they ought to do without motivating them to do it only adds to their burdens. This was the approach of the scribes and Pharisees; it was not the approach of Jesus (Matt. 23:1-4). Jesus was a

master at using various word pictures, images, and metaphors to teach. The common person heard Him gladly and many of them were transformed by His teaching. What word picture or metaphor are you going to use in your teaching this week?

[Source: Warren W. Wiersbe, *Preaching and Teaching With Imagination: The Quest for Biblical Ministry* (Grand Rapids: Baker, 1994), 64.]