

EMPOWERED TO SERVE

DISCUSSION

When you hear the word “servant” what images or pictures come to mind?

Why do you think our culture tends to look down on those who serve others?

EXPLANATION

READ 1 Peter 4:8-11.

When you think of God giving gifts of grace, what kinds of gifts come to mind? What gifts or talents have others noticed in you that might fit into this category?

APPLICATION

How does forgiving someone demonstrate “love covering a multitude of sins” (v. 8)?

What situations or people do you find most difficult to forgive? Why do you think that is?

What do you think keeps us from including more people into our lives (or being more hospitable)? (v. 9)

Who is someone you could welcome into your life this week? What would it take to engage them?

Why do you think God gave us gifts – but then told us they were to serve others rather than for our own use?

What gifts do you have that might be able to help others? What might happen if those gifts stayed sidelined?

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1 Peter 4:8-11

TODAY'S VERSES

1 Peter 4:8-11

Colossians 3:13

2 Corinthians 5:17

Romans 12:4-5

Jesus has not only secured the future for those of us who have trusted Him as our savior, he has given us a new identity and new abilities to be able to serve Him in exciting ways. God gives us the superhuman ability to love others in at least 3 ways:

1. **Superhuman Love Forgives Freely.**
2. **Superhuman Love Welcomes Warmly.**
3. **Superhuman Love Serves Selflessly.**

Action Steps:

1. Write down the name of someone you need to love by showing forgiveness: _____
2. Write down the name of someone you could invite into your life this week: _____
3. Write down one way you could use your gifts to serve others in the church or the people around you: _____

Happy New Year!

