Servant’s Heart
A selfless willingness to serve others on God’s behalf.

Galatians 5:13 (NASB)
“For you were called to freedom, brethren; only do not turn your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.”

Opposite—Selfishness

Start here -
1. Memorize the definition.
3. What is the opposite of a servant’s heart?

Story and discussion questions
Betsy, a teenager, liked being waited on hand and foot. She rarely lifted a finger around the house. One day her mom got sick and was in bed for over a week. Betsy was asked by her dad to help make dinner, keep the house clean, and wash clothes until her mom recovered. Reluctantly, she helped. At the end of the week Betsy had a new appreciation for her mom and all her mom did for the family...

1. What could Betsy's parents have done differently to help Betsy learn to serve others? (They could have given her chores to do from the time she was little. In this way she would have learned that everyone in the family needs to help.)
2. Give three reasons why many people don't like to serve others. (some people only look to their own needs, some are so busy they don't have time to serve others, some fear being taken advantage of)
3. What comes to mind when someone mentions the word "servant"? (Some people think of the Civil War and slavery. This may bring up negative images of cruel masters abusing their slaves.)
4. How is being God’s servant different from being a pre-Civil War slave? (slaves were forced to work, Christians serve God by choice)
5. List three good things that can come from serving others. (a sense of joy, an outward focus, learning to care about other people and not just yourself)
6. Give examples of selfish and unselfish motives in serving others. (A selfish motive would be serving someone hoping to get something from them. An unselfish motive would be serving someone simply because they had a need, and not thinking about what you might get out of it.)

Bible passages and discussion
1. What can be learned about being a servant from Matthew 20:28? (Jesus believed it was more important to serve than to be served. Service may be costly. Jesus’ service was total because it ultimately cost Him His earthly life.)
2. In the following verses, name some things that Jesus did to serve others.
   - Matthew 8:14-17 (He healed people and cast out demons)
   - Matthew 9:9-12 (He associated with undesirable people)
   - Matthew 14:13-21 (He healed and fed people)
3. Look up the following verses. What does each one have to do with being a servant? Give an example of how the truth from each one could be applied in a real-life
situation. For example, Psalm 100:2 says that we are to serve with gladness. An example of this would be a young person doing chores around the house with a good attitude and a joyful heart.

- Galatians 5:13 (*Serve through love. Show love and kindness while serving at a soup kitchen.*)
- Philippians 2:3,4 (*Look on other's needs as more important than your own. At home consider your sibling’s needs as more important than your own.*)
- Matthew 6:24 (*No one can serve two masters. Don't do things only for money.*)
- John 12:26 (*If anyone serves, let him take up his cross and follow Christ. We should be willing to serve sacrificially.*)
- Romans 6:6 (*We are not to serve sin. Don't feed fleshly desires.*)
- Romans 7:6 (*We should serve in newness of life. Our service should be different than that of a non-Christian. It should show true joy.*)

4. Name a person who has a true servant's heart. Why do you feel this way about them?

5. List five ways that a person could serve others in the local church. (*Help in the youth group. Help with children’s ministries. Volunteer to visit the sick. Help at a church work day. Ask the pastor what special project needs to be done and do it.*)

**Application**

1. How are you currently serving in your local church?
2. What is one new way you could start serving in your local church?
3. What are appropriate ways parents can serve their children? (*buy them clothes, provide food and shelter, give emotional support, help with homework, give advice when asked*)
4. What are appropriate ways that children can be God's servants in their homes? (*do chores willingly, ask if they can help out*)
5. Form groups of two and take three minutes to list as many things as you can think of that a person can do to serve others. (*make meals for a sick neighbor, give someone a ride, help a classmate, mow someone's yard*)

6. Describe a time you served someone unselfishly. How did you feel about it?
7. In your own home how would you rate your servant’s heart; great, good, fair, or needs much improvement? Explain.
8. How could you improve your service to those in your family? Come up with one thing you can do and do it today.
9. How could you improve your service to those at school, work or in your neighborhood? Plan to do one specific thing this week.
10. How can you improve the way you serve others in your church?

**Activities**

1. Serve one of your neighbors today by doing something special like: taking them cookies, taking them ice cream, mowing their lawn, washing their car…
2. Make a list of one thing you can do to serve each member of your family this week. After making the list, begin immediately doing the things on it so you don’t forget. Examples would be:
   - Doing the dishes for your mom
   - Polishing your dad’s shoes
   - Washing the windows in your brother’s room
   - Helping your sister clean her room
4. Display this Life Quality in your home for the next week.
5. Close in prayer asking God to give you a servant’s heart.

**Notes:**

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