Study based on the sermon

Serving
(Sunday, March 10, 2013)
from the sermon series ...

Serving the Undeserving

**RELATE**

What from this sermon did you most need to hear?

What makes a person deserving of help or service?

Share a time you served someone recently. How did the person (or cause) deserve your help?

**Luke 14:1-14**

The Pharisees opposed Jesus’ message and ministry, and ultimately had Him crucified. How did He treat them? Look for ways Jesus served His hard-hearted enemies in this account.

Set the scene. Who is there? What happens? Why does it matter that this is the Sabbath?

What wrong understanding of the law does Jesus seek to correct? Where did the Pharisees’ thinking come from? How would you describe their motives, or their dilemma?

When have you struggled to pay attention to, put up with, or serve someone?

How did the ways Jesus made His case appeal to their values and concerns (v. 3, 10, 14)?

What does Jesus’ tone reveal about His heart for the Pharisees? Why didn’t He confront them more forcefully, as He did in other encounters (Matt. 23:13 ff; driving out money-changers, etc.)?

How do you decide if someone deserves your time, resources, or consideration?

Mother Teresa said, “I have found the paradox that if I love until it hurts, then there is no more hurt, but only more love.” How does loving and serving selfish, undeserving people grow us?

Has anyone put up with you when you didn’t really deserve it? What did they do, and how did it affect you?

**READ & REFLECT**

**RESPOND**

Who do you find difficult to love or serve? (Hint: They’ve come to mind during the sermon or study!) How has this passage or the sermon helped you see them in a different way?

Between now and the next time your group meets, pray for this person every time he or she comes to mind. Ask God to give you insight into what makes them the way they are. Ask Him to help you grow in love for them. Think of one simple way you can serve them.