



Sermon Study Guide for January 28, 2024

Our Savior Lutheran Church and School

Theme: Jesus did not come to be served, but to serve, and give His life as a ransom for many. God's love is shown through service to us and through us.

Getting Started: (sharing with each other)

1. Where does "acts of service" rank in your love languages?
2. What are some of the best ways that you can express, or how would you like someone to express this love language for you? (Examples: Making the bed, doing the dishes, asking 'how can I help?', surprise act of service, do the laundry, fold the laundry, do someone's least favorite chore, etc.)

In the Word: 1 John 3:16-20

3. Jesus is the personification and epitome of 'acts of service.' We see Jesus showing the best act of service, when He lays down His life for us. We also read that, "we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters." It may not be laying down our lives, but how can we follow the example of Jesus and live to the extremes of serving our neighbors?
4. "Actions speak louder than words." In verse 18, we read, "let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth." We should also love with words and speech, but how do we show love, specifically thinking of acts of service??

In the Word: Mark 2:1-12

5. Wouldn't you want to have friends like the paralyzed man has? Have you ever experienced the kind of love or acts of service that the paralyzed man's friends did for him?

6. In verse 5 of Mark 2, there is a note that is very powerful. We read that when Jesus saw, not the faith of the man, but of his friends, he said, "Son, your sins are forgiven." The friends that brought Jesus knew that Jesus could heal. How can we rally around others like these friends did for the paralytic?
7. It is obviously easier to say, "Your sins are forgiven," rather than, "Get up, take up your mat and walk." The teachers of the law struggled with the forgiveness, since only God can forgive sins. But yet, Jesus does both. How does Jesus showing both, show the limits that the teachers of the law put on Him?

Putting it all Together (what do we believe or do as disciples?)

8. It is easy to speak love. It is easy to share words that may even be empty and have no love behind them. But when we act and show the love of God, when we *do* something to show the love of God, it tends to truly show the heart of God. In what ways can you *show* love, in your everyday life?
9. "They will know we are Christians by our love, by our love. Yes, they will know we are Christians by our love." Our world needs love. We can show the love of Christ in many different ways. How can we not just show love to those that we care about and interact with on a daily basis, but show love to all people, in all circumstances, even in circumstances that may be hard to love in, through acts of service?

Prayer: Thank God for the greatest act of service, which is Jesus laying down His life for you. Thank God that He sent His son in the ultimate showing of love. Ask God that he would help you to serve others in ways that show His love. Ask God that He would help you even in times when it may be difficult, to perform those acts of service, each and every day.

Next Week: We will have a guest preacher, Rev. Mark Schulz, who is speaking at the Theological conference. He will be preaching on the love language, "words of affirmation." Words have power to build up or tear down. God's Word affirms our sin but also His love for us as His beloved children.