

REMINDER: Go to <http://happenings.gracechapelchurch.com/> to view this week's bulletin, order of worship and songs we will enjoy together. Stay connected!

The Servant of the Church

BIG IDEA: There is a big difference between choosing to be a volunteer and *choosing to be a servant*. When we chose to be a volunteer, we are still in charge. But when we choose to be a servant, we give up the right to be in charge.

ICE BREAKER

1. Give some positive and negative examples of when you have volunteered to serve.
2. What are some expectations of how we should be treated as a volunteer?

THINK

1. What would be the difference between a person who said they want to volunteer to serve you and a person who said they want to be your servant?
2. With that question in mind, read the story Jesus tells in [Luke 17:7-10](#) and discuss what it meant to be a servant in Bible times.

EXAMINE

We are in the process of selecting Deacons for the church. The word "deacon" comes from the Greek word "diakonos" which means to serve or minister. Jesus uses this same root word in [Mark 9:35](#) when He told His disciples, "*Whoever wants to be first must take last place and be the servant of everyone else.*" We know how to be volunteers but we need to be shown how to be servants. Deacons are men recognized by the church as more than good volunteers, they are our example of servant leaders.

1. The best description of this type leader is found in [Philippians 2:3-8](#). Read this passage and discuss how Jesus is the supreme example of a servant leader.
2. Read [Philippians 2:9-11](#) and discuss *how* and *why* Jesus was not initially honored by men but was ultimately honored by God.
3. Why do you think much of our continued service often depends on being recognized, appreciated and even honored by others?
4. Read [John 12:26](#) and discuss the difference between the way volunteers are honored in our world and the way servants are honored in God's world.
5. Now, with Jesus as our example, read [1 Timothy 3:8-13](#) and discuss the character, example & work of a deacon.
 - What in this passage addresses the quality of character demonstrated by a deacon?
 - What in this passage addresses the kind of example demonstrated by a deacon?
 - How do the words, "*faithful in everything they do*" describe not only the way they live but the way they work?

THIS WEEK: Listed below are the men being considered to serve the church as deacons:

Frank Allen, Sean Burks, Jason Green, Craig Hunter, Justin Hunton, Andy Jackson, Alec Johnston, Dale Kilpatrick, and Brent Irwin. Please pray for these men and their families as they accept the responsibility of being servants of the church. Then pray to God that we will all follow the example of Jesus who came not to be served to serve. Jesus asks us this question and then leads us in the answer we must all give if we desire to follow our Master. [Luke 22:27](#) "*For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one who is at the table? But I am among you as one who serves.*" Find your joy this week in being a servant in your home, at work and in God's wonderful church.