

## Who is Jesus?

Most people have an opinion about Jesus. But many of these opinions are based on what they've heard or come up with on their own-what they'd prefer Jesus to be-as opposed to their own discovery of Jesus through the Bible. People believe Jesus was all kinds of things-a great teacher, a leader of a revolution, a radical with a political agenda, a gentle man with a big vision, a spiritual person who emphasized religion. Still others believe he is who he claimed to be-God.

Read Mark 10: 36-45. Jesus said he "did not come to be served, but to serve." Mark 10:45. And he calls us as his followers to the same lifestyle and attitude of service. Serving is often anything but glamorous. No one loves picking up trash, stacking chairs, or putting things away. It's easy to view service jobs as beneath us-but they're not. No act of service is beneath us if we have acquired the servant heart of Jesus.

1. What is it about serving that makes it so difficult sometimes?
2. Why isn't servanthood attractive in our world? In the church?
3. What does the above verse tell us about Jesus' character?

Jesus emphasizes both humility and sacrifice. Humility doesn't mean thinking badly of yourself; it simply means you put others first and don't think of yourself more highly than you should. Sacrifice, on the other hand, is something you do for others-and there's always a cost attached. Humility and sacrifice may be hard for you right now, but they become more natural as you learn to see life through Jesus' eyes and start putting them into practice.

1. How do you usually treat people who serve you? (Think about restaurant workers, store clerks, family members, janitors, and so on.)
2. Give examples of how you might "lord it over them" (Mark 10:42)

Discuss the following story. How can acts of service become acts of evangelism?

*The Fourth of July in one California beach city meant hundreds of celebrating visitors. By the next morning trash always littered the streets. One small group decided that it would be great to serve the town by picking up the trash. Soon other groups within his church learned about his idea and decided to join in. On the fifth of July, almost 100 people were on the beach and wandering through town, picking up and bagging garbage. They had a great day of serving together. It wasn't a glorious task, but the community had a big need and God's servants responded.*

*From that day on the city knew this church really cared, and before long, people in the town began asking this church to meet a variety of needs and even to host special events. All this was possible because when there was a need, people responded.*

Love Chico is an act of evangelism.

1. How do you think Love Chico has impacted the community?
2. If you were able to participate, how did this act of service impact you personally?

