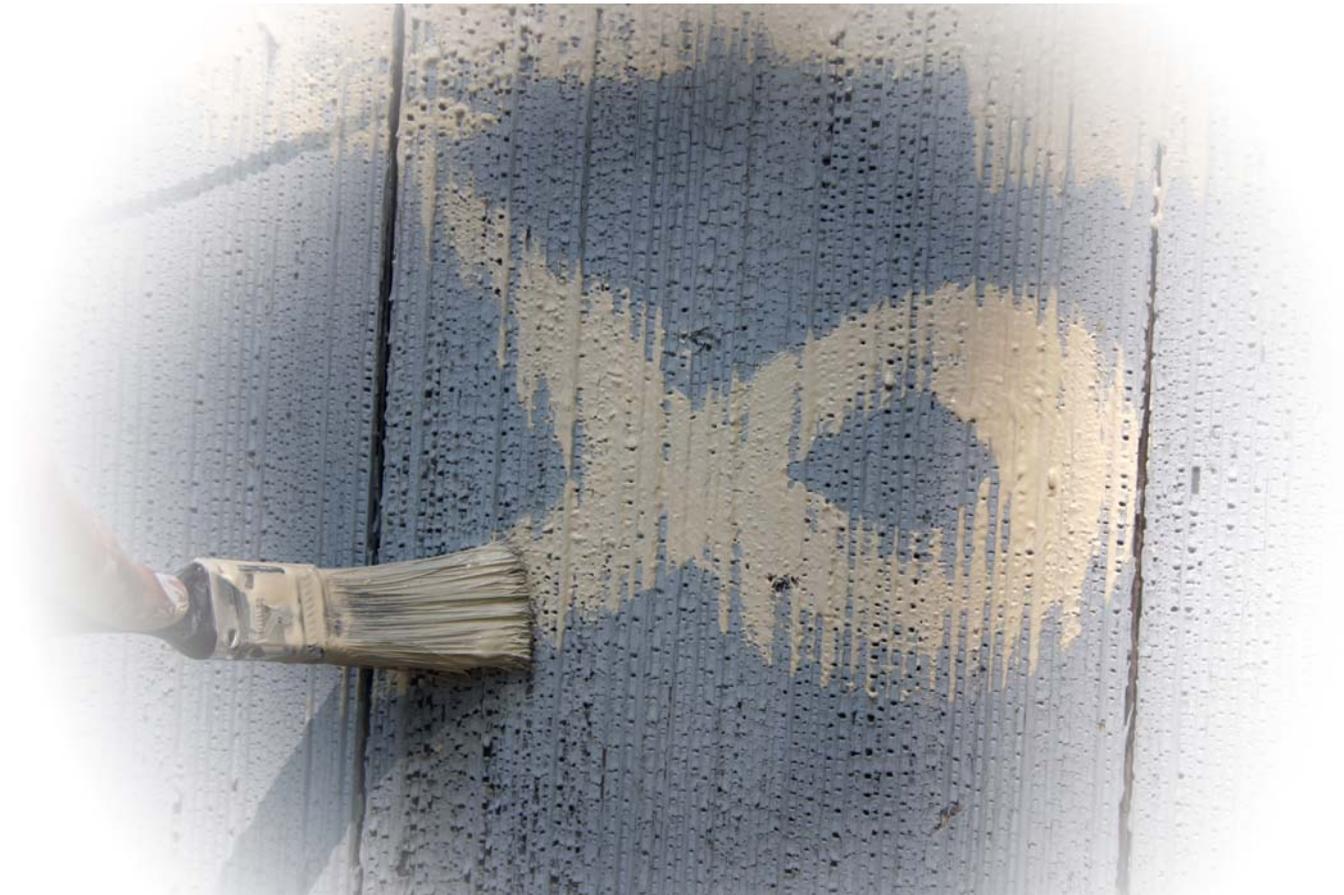


# Devotion Guide

July 23<sup>rd</sup> - July 29<sup>th</sup>



**Faith Workcamps 2006**  
**Somerville, TN**

*For the past 15 years, Faith Presbyterian Church has participated in Group Publishing's summer Work camp program. The primary goal is the spiritual growth of high school and college-aged students. Workcamps are an intensive week of community service offering teenagers an opportunity to perform hands-on home-repair projects for low income families. Projects include carpentry, roof repair, step and porch construction, weatherization, wheelchair ramp construction, painting, and drywall work.*

*As the campers serve, their confidence and character can grow like never before. Their faith ignites as they complete hands-on, meaningful work that really counts, and they discover a genuine appreciation for all God has given them. Some residents must choose between putting food on the table and fixing a leaky roof. The real repairs, however, are done not to the homes, but to the lives of those they touch.*

*This year we head for Somerville, TN. For decades, "white gold" cotton covered the rolling farmland of Southwestern Tennessee. Here, that crop grew tall in the summer sun, folks took time to visit, and sprawling antebellum houses bespoke the affluence of an era long since gone but not forgotten. Like many graceful Southern cities, this is home to a lot of honest, hard-working people who believed their grand society would go on forever. Now they feel the pinch of low wages, rising costs, and economic uncertainty. The work of Faith Presbyterian's workcampers will help change the lives of these residents for many years to come.*

*The theme for this years workcamp is **Full-Service: A Jesus Attitude**. This booklet will guide us through the verses that are the primary focus of this summer's devotions at workcamp (Philippians 2: 1-18.) We set aside time at lunch, during the evening program, and at bedtime to really focus on these verses to help our faith grow and we hope you will do the same. Each day's scripture verses correspond with the focus at workcamp for that particular day (July 24-29) so you can hear God's word just as we are in Somerville, TN.*

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## A JESUS ATTITUDE OF LOVE

*If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose.*  
- Philippians 2: 1-2

When we hear the word “love,” our thoughts often turn to dating, romance, and marriage. When the Bible speaks of love, however, it means much more than flowers and love notes.

Mother Teresa lived out Jesus’ full-service attitude of love in a way the whole world noticed. She dedicated herself to serving the Lord as a nun, teaching in St. Mary’s High School in Calcutta, India for 17 years. But that wasn’t enough...

Mother Teresa couldn’t help but notice the poor, sick, and needy suffering outside her school. She constantly witnessed people not only starving, but in need of a kind word and someone to show them love in a way that heals the soul.

India is especially harsh toward the poor. This predominantly Hindu nation operates under a caste system, where the social class you are born into is the only class you will ever be a part of. The Hindu structure believes in reincarnation, and the poor suffer in the present because of past “sin” and thus are worthy of no mercy or kindness.

Mother Teresa boldly displayed the radical love of Jesus Christ in order to aid the desperate around her as well as to challenge the popular “wisdom” of the dominant religion in Calcutta. By giving people dignity and proclaiming their inherent worth as human beings, she displayed a transformative love the world will never forget.

### **FULL-SERVICE LOVE**

How does society and pop culture define “love”?  
How does this definition fall short of authentic love?  
What impact might it have on your own life to show full-service love to others?  
On the lives of others? On their perception of God?

You don’t have to travel to Calcutta to show full-service love. You can show it in your home, at school, or in church. Take time this week to show the world a picture of Jesus, the very embodiment of true love.

## A JESUS ATTITUDE OF HUMILITY

*Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.*

- Philippians 2: 3-4

When we talk about humble people, the names of the wealthy, brilliant, or famous who downplay their enormous accomplishments typically come to mind. But what about those people who had it all and turned away to serve others? Invariably, these humble servants changed the world around them.

Take St. Francis of Assisi. A holy man who cared for the poor and founded an order of monks focused on God and meeting people's physical needs. That's all true, but do you know the beginning of his story?

Francis came from a very wealthy family. He and his friends squandered enormous amounts of money on wine, women, and wanton pleasure. That is, until he gave some money to a beggar.

This one simple act opened up the spoiled son to a world of hurt and need outside himself. Despite the ridicule of his friends and the rejection of his father, who kicked him out of the house, Francis humbled himself, using every bit of money and energy he could gather to help the less fortunate in the name of Jesus.

It's ironic that most people would probably lump St. Francis of Assisi in with the beggars. He wore coarse robes, ate simply and sparsely, and gave up almost every physical possession. It was his humility that made him great. The humble attitude of Christ brought life to all those he met, served, and loved.

### **DISCUSS IT!**

Francis's story challenges us to revisit humility. Do you look down on the homeless? Turn your eyes away from the poor or socially awkward? It only takes an attitude adjustment toward Christ-like humility to make an eternal impact.

What would mimicking St. Francis' humility look like in your daily life?

How can a person learn to become more humble?

What hurdles prevent you from living with more humility?

## A JESUS ATTITUDE

*Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus.*

- Philippians 2: 5

One of the most well known and moving passages in Paul's writings is Philippians 2:5-11, known as the Kenosis Hymn (from the Greek word *ekenosen* meaning "He emptied").

The Kenosis Hymn functions as an ethical example of what Christian citizenship means. Unity comes in serving God through service to each other. There is danger of selfishly looking out for one's own interests at the expense of others. A spirit of self-sacrifice is an expression to others of the love exemplified in Christ, a love that was obedient until his death. True servanthood is giving completely of yourself. (see *Wednesday...*)

We live in a society dominated by a philosophy of "me first," and molded by the corporate ideals of success. It is important to remember that while this attitude may be popular, even necessary in some cases, if it does so at the expense of Christian unity and love, it is not Christian! A Christian's primary responsibilities should include service to others and showing God's love in action. In other words, "Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus."

C. C. Meigs expressed this attitude in the song "Others":

*Others, Lord, yes others!  
Let this my motto be!  
Help me live for others,  
That I may live for Thee!*

### **ONE WITH THE ONE**

This philosophy is certainly idealistic. Realistically, we can make Christ-like sacrifices in our daily lives.

What obstacles in your life make it difficult to live with a Jesus attitude?

How can you minimize the interference of these obstacles?

How are you spreading Christ love this week?

## A JESUS ATTITUDE OF SERVANTHOOD

*Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.*

- Philippians 2: 6-7

As we discussed yesterday, true servanthood is giving completely of yourself. In John 13:1-20 we can read about Jesus washing the feet of his disciples. Christ knew this was the last time he would be with all his disciples. What does John say was on his mind? His love for the disciples. And out of love He taught them one last lesson - humility. (see *Monday...*) In order to fulfill the mission of spreading the gospel, the disciples would need to learn to serve. Pride and arrogance would ruin the disciples' relationship with God, with each other, and with the people they were trying to save. Humility and service to others is the evidence of love.

It's an important lesson for us as well. People line up to do the tasks that are considered important, glamorous, or respected. But Jesus showed humility by doing the task that no one wanted to do. He washed the disciples' feet -- a dirty job usually performed by the lowest ranking person in the room. Was Jesus the lowest ranking person? No. He was Lord and Teacher. He knew He would soon be at the Father's side in heaven. Did He think it was too lowly a task for Him to do? No. We need to be willing to do whatever is needed. Jesus was not only willing, He prepared Himself to do this service. Look at who all Jesus served. Even Judas, who left that table to betray the Lord, had his feet washed by Jesus. Jesus put himself in a position of servitude to His own betrayer.

### **LIVING GOD'S WORD**

This week at camp, we are sharing our talents with others through servanthood. The true challenge is returning home and continuing to give completely of ourselves.

Are there tasks that we won't do because they are lowly?

What can we do to prepare to serve others back home?

What talents, resources, and services can we provide?

## **A JESUS ATTITUDE OF SACRIFICE**

*And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death—even death on a cross! Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*  
- Philippians 2: 8-11

What does personal, every day, full-service sacrifice look like? Dietrich Bonhoeffer gives a great example of sacrifice. Bonhoeffer was a highly influential pastor, preacher, and writer in Nazi Germany. Bonhoeffer vocally opposed Hitler, calling Germans and Christians to reject Hitler's nationalist ambitions. (Shockingly, many churches supported Hitler.) Despite direct threats on his life, Bonhoeffer continued on his crusade, even forming a group of like-minded ministers called the "Confessing Church" and teaching seminary students illegally until fleeing to the United States, where he could have lived a comfortable life. Instead, he chose to sacrifice.

Bonhoeffer tossed aside his comfort so that he might make a difference. In fact, he continued his work against Hitler by joining the military intelligence agency. From the inside, he actively sought the Nazi's demise by passing along secrets to the Allies and supporting insurgent groups.

In the end, Dietrich Bonhoeffer sacrificed his life for doing what he knew was right. Ultimately, he was discovered and hanged for treason. By returning to his home country, Bonhoeffer displayed full-service sacrifice, the type of sacrifice modeled by our Lord Jesus Christ.

### **WHEN YOU ARE WITH ME, I'M FREE**

Dietrich Bonhoeffer showed us that real world, everyday sacrifice boils down to this—do what God says is right rather than what is easy.

What was the last thing you had to sacrifice? How did that make you feel?  
What kinds of practical things can a person sacrifice?  
What attitudes prevent a person from sacrificing for others?  
What do you believe God is asking you to sacrifice and how will you do that?

## A JESUS ATTITUDE OF OBEDIENCE

*Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose. Do everything without complaining or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe as you hold out the word of life—in order that I may boast on the day of Christ that I did not run or labor for nothing. But even if I am being poured out like a drink offering on the sacrifice and service coming from your faith, I am glad and rejoice with all of you. So you too should be glad and rejoice with me.*

- Philippians 2: 12-18

Most people consider obedience to be an action, but that's only half the story. A person's heart must joyfully submit to God to be truly considered obedient. When we obey, our body, mind, and soul knit together in agreement.

Take George Mueller as an example. With only fifty cents to his name, this one man founded what would become five orphanages that could house over 2,000 orphans. You read that right—he started with fifty cents.

Mr. Mueller decided to obey God's command to care for the orphans in a literal and practical sense. He accepted the call to become the loving hands and feet of Jesus to the homeless children wandering the streets of Bristol, England. To do that, he started an orphanage, vowing to rely on God alone through prayer for the daily needs and never voice them to others.

This incredible act of obedient faith led to 60 years of physical needs being supernaturally met by Christ, from random checks arriving in the mail to the miraculous wreck of a bread truck in front of the orphanage on the day they ran out of food. These are but two of the countless stories about how God reached down and blessed George Mueller's obedience.

*(Continued on Page 7)*

It wasn't always that way.

George spent the early part of his life in stark rebellion. As a teenager, he indulged every lust of the flesh and regularly lied and stole from his father. Following a stint in jail at the age of 16, he appeared to be turning his life around. Internally, however, George Mueller remained unrepentant. It was only when he aligned his spirit with his actions did Mueller's obedience become miraculous.

That's why Jesus displayed an attitude of total obedience. Even if he had performed all the miracles and preached all the sermons, yet refused obedience to the Father unto death on the cross, it would've been all for naught.

When you adopt an attitude of full service, don't simply go through the motions. Obey with heart, mind, and strength, and prepare to witness God do mighty things in and through you.

## **LOOKING WITHIN**

Can you tell a difference between whole- and half-hearted obedience?  
Why or why not?

Why does God even care if our heart lines up with our actions?

What one area do you believe God is calling you to whole-hearted obedience?

What must you do this week to obey?



Faith Presbyterian Church in Emmaus, Pennsylvania

Emily Cole  
Dan Hemberger  
Larry Hemberger  
Stephanie Hutzayluk  
Jayme Ingram  
Lynn Ingram  
Mark Ingram  
Melanie Kramer  
Greg Leinweber  
Eric Lillegard  
Jim Lillegard  
Stephanie Lillegard  
Andrew Millick  
Diane Millick  
Platte Moring  
William Moring  
Christy Smits  
Kelly Trop  
Justin Yen

**Thank you very much for supporting Faith Workcamps! Know that your support is helping to change not only the lives of Faith Presbyterian's Workcampers, but the lives of all who come in contact with them throughout the week and in the future. Please pray for our safety during this physical and spiritual journey. We will depart from Faith Presbyterian Church in Emmaus, PA at 7:45 AM on July 22nd and invite all of you to attend our send off service. We will return from Somerville, TN during the afternoon of July 30th.**