



# UNCOMFORTABLE Different with You

#npuncomfortable

Week 3

3 of 4

August 18, 2019

**Bottom Line:** Choose to be a servant over serving.

**Icebreaker:** What was your high of the past week? What was your low? Can you think of a high you provided for someone else? How about a low?

**Key Verse:** *For you have been called to live in freedom, my brothers and sisters. But don't use your freedom to satisfy your sinful nature. Instead, use your freedom to serve one another in love.* Galatians 5:13 NLT

As you choose to follow Jesus, not only does He call you to live in community, but He calls you to be a servant in this community. Nothing will bring you out of the status quo into status go any quicker than serving. We stay in the comfort zone when Jesus calls us to servanthood because of fear: fear of being taken advantage of, fear of inconvenience, fear of lack of control. God calls us to freedom, and our freedom involves freely choosing to serve one another in love (Galatians 5:13).

We don't HAVE to be servants. We can stay in our comfort zones if we choose, but we will destroy our community and each other. The answer to the kind of life we desire is to choose serving—not in isolated, manipulative moments, but to serve from the heart as a lifestyle. We choose servanthood as our way of life. Jesus told His disciples that this was at the heart of the difference His followers would have.

Seeing what needs to be done and just stepping up and doing it without coercion, manipulation, or guilt brings freedom. Clearly, serving others helps us overcome selfishness. Service shifts our focus from what is good for us to what is good for others, and that helps break the power of self-centeredness. Choosing to serve can set us free. Serving is also the key to happiness. A person who has adopted a servant's mindset has nothing to prove because he is secure in Christ. She has nothing to lose, because she has already surrendered everything to Christ. He has nothing to hide, because integrity before Christ keeps him open and unselfish. Life as a servant defeats self-centered living and adds lasting significance. Servanthood is mutually healing. It is the way of Jesus.

## THINK IT OVER >>>

What impacted you most from the message?

Just as being the best way to break greed is to give, the best way to break self-centeredness is to serve. Reflect. How have you experienced that?

We may be criticized for what we believe, but we should be famous for our compassion and generosity.

What do we believe that attracts criticism? What do we do that makes us well known for generosity and compassion? Make it personal, apart from NewPointe. What do I believe and do?

Which of the fears that typically keep people from serving are most real to your experience? Afraid of being taken advantage of, afraid of being inconvenienced, afraid of not being in control? What could you do to overcome that fear?

What does serving one another humbly in love look like in a marriage? In the home generally? How is being a servant different than serving?

## LOOK IT OVER <<<

Paul was saying that we grow when we look for opportunities to serve, precisely because we don't have to. It's no longer the golden rule of 'do unto others as you would have them do to you'; it is God's rule of do unto others as God has done to you. Reflect and discuss.

How does territorialism and self-protection impact relationships? What does serving one another humbly in love look like in a marriage? In the home generally?

In your attempt to have what you want, you never get it. In your attempt to get things to go your way, you lose your way. Been there, done that? How does adopting the attitude of a servant break the control of self-centeredness in our lives?

Jesus said we don't serve others because they deserve it but because He did it for us. What is your gut reaction to that? inspiration? guilt? How can His example guide me?

# NEXT STEPS

This week consider taking some next steps together as a group:

- 1) Look at your relationships across the board and evaluate the state of your servanthood in each.
- 2) Pray through a next step with God to move more toward a servant lifestyle.
- 3) *"Now that you now these things, you will be blessed if you do them"* (John 13:1-17). Obey Jesus this week.

## EVALUTION/ACTION

Realizing and reaching your full potential in Christ

**Bottom Line:** Choose servanthood over serving.

Rate yourself from 1 to 10 1 (never), 10 (always)	1	2	3	4		6	7	8	9	10
Why did you give yourself this rating?										
What benefits will you obtain by raising your rating?										
Do you know someone who demonstrates this bottom line well? What do you admire about that person?										
What specific action can you put into practice to raise your rating?										
At the end of this week, reflect - where did you see the bottom line show up in your actions throughout the week?										

## PRAYER

List group members and their prayer requests for this week:

## DAILY STUDY

Want to dig deeper? Check out **The Daily** this week at [newpointe.org/daily](http://newpointe.org/daily):

Monday: 1 Corinthians 9:19; 22b-23

Tuesday: Philippians 2:3-8

Wednesday: Matthew 10:24-25

Thursday: Luke 22:25-27

Friday: John 13:1-17

***Don't let the conversation stop here. Keep talking it over with others throughout the week.***  
*(Don't forget to bring this paper to your next small group meeting)*