

## EMBRACING THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS: Serving Like Jesus

December is filled with various parties and celebrations as we prepare for Christmas, the year's biggest holiday! Christmas honors the birth of Jesus, Emmanuel, which means "God with us." Since Jesus and God are one, it would make sense to show the world what "God with us" looks like by following Jesus's example and serving others. After all, isn't serving (even during the holidays) what Christmas is all about? I wonder what Jesus might have done during the holidays if He were still on earth. Let's see if we can gain some insight together.

Read [Mark 10:45](#).

The disciples seemed to be concerned about position and power, but Jesus had something else in mind. *What did Jesus say was the reason He came? What was most important to Him?*

*What takes priority in your heart and mind during the holidays? Be honest.*

Read [John 13:3-5](#).

This is a familiar story. Jesus did something no one else wanted to do or at least chose to do. *What was it?*

*How would you have reacted if you were one of the disciples?*

Read [John 13:12-17](#).

*Jesus explained the reason why He served His disciples in this way. What was His purpose?*

*What did Jesus say God would do if we followed His example?*

God does not call us to serve in the same way. As you celebrate Christmas this year, consider the following questions. *What are some ways you can serve others in your community this holiday season? How can you incorporate acts of service into your family traditions? Who might be overlooked during the holidays who could benefit from your service?* Remind yourself that Jesus came not to be served but to serve. By serving others we are mirroring His actions and demonstrating our faith. This season, let someone experience Jesus through you.

*Dear God, as we approach the holiday season, remind us of the true meaning of giving and serving. Help us to see beyond our own needs and find ways to bring joy to others through our actions. Give us the strength and compassion to reach out to those in need this holiday season. May our acts of service reflect Your love and grace to the world. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

