

# Serving your *oikos*

## session handout

### Experiences of prayer

Reflect together on your experiences of prayer:

- *Was it easy to pray in a disciplined way each day?*
- *Did you see any answers to prayer in the first week?*
- *Did you find the Bible passages helpful in showing you how to pray?*
- *Were you inspired to do anything as a result of the prayer?*



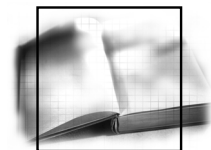
### Serving others

The first step in 'Living the gospel' is to pray for members of your *oikos* regularly.

The second step is not to talk to them about your faith!

The second step is to love them and to serve them.

Jesus came not to be served but to serve. He calls and challenges us to be servants of others.



Read John 13.1-17

Now before the festival of the Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray him. And during supper Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him. He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, 'Lord, are you going to wash my feet?' Jesus answered, 'You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand.' Peter said to him, 'You will never wash my feet.' Jesus answered, 'Unless I wash you, you have no share with me.' Simon Peter said to him, 'Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!' Jesus said to him, 'One who has bathed does not need to wash, except for the feet, but is entirely clean. And you are clean, though not all of you.' For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, 'Not all of you are clean.' After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, he said to them, 'Do you know what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord – and you are right, for that is what I am. So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.'

## Serving your oikos



The aim of this exercise is to help you begin to see how to serve your oikos.

- *Take some time in the quietness to look through each name on your list. Jot down on a piece of scrap paper their different needs and how you could serve them in practical ways.*
- *Get together in the same triplet as last week. Share your ideas about serving different members of your oikos. Help each other as much as you can.*

After you have talked in general about your list, then be specific.

- *Take the names you have asked others to pray for.*
- *In discussion in the triplet, identify one definite practical way you can serve each person in the coming week, e.g. wash their car; give them a lift; fetch the sandwiches; babysit.*
- *Write down that suggestion and commitment for your own names and for the other four.*
- *Pray together for each person and your commitment to serve them.*

Discuss any questions, problems or challenges in the whole group.

## Putting it into practice



Continue to pray for the people on your prayer list each day. Pray that God will draw them to himself.

Pray also for your two prayer partners as they begin to serve their oikos.

Begin to serve your own oikos!

### **Bible reading**

About being a servant:

Isaiah 42.1-4

Matthew 20.20-28

Luke 16.10-15

Romans 1.1-6

Romans 12.1-21

1 Corinthians 13

Philippians 2.1-13