



NAC-USA  
DEVELOPMENT  
INSTITUTE

**Humility  
and Love**

**Continuing  
through  
Adversity**

**Practice  
what you  
Preach**

# MIDWEEK GUIDE

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**2017**

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April

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# 2017 April MIDWEEK GUIDE

## Session 1: Jesus the Servant Leader: Humility and Love

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1. What does being a servant leader mean to you?

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2. Does the idea of a leader looking first to serve rather than lead (or direct/instruct/command) seem contrary to the idea of what leaders are supposed to do?

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3. Consider the most influential leaders in your life or, less personally, in your lifetime. Were they servant leaders? What made them effective?

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4. What do we have to be willing to surrender in order to serve others?

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5. How do we become committed to serving?

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6. What is the significance of each of the words that Jesus used to describe serving? (The first word, *diakonos*, captures the idea of serving in humbleness for the benefit of others, as Jesus displayed with the foot washing, and the second word, *doulos*, expresses service grounded in obedience and self-denial.)

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7. Jesus did not ask more of His disciples than what He did of Himself. What does that say about Jesus as a servant leader?

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8. Read the following quote. What does it tell you about building up others in leadership?

*“When we trust that God is in control of our life, we can take big risks. We can relinquish impressive positions. We can act like true servants without being insecure or defensive. A servant can risk their place of leadership for the purpose of service.” - C. Gene Wilkes, Jesus on Leadership*

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9. Have you ever thought about mentoring someone? Seeking out a mentor yourself? Has anything ever stopped you?

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10. How does your love for God affect your desire to share His love with all?

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11. Think of an area in your life where you are a leader – maybe you are a parent, you lead a team at work, or you lead worship in service. What can you do to become or improve as a servant leader in this area?

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## Bible References

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John 13:3-5, 16-17, 34-35

Luke 22:42

Matthew 23:11-12

## Session 2: Jesus the Servant Leader: Continuing through Adversity

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1. Why does God allow adversity in our lives?

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2. What is an adversity that you are facing this week? How has it affected your journey of faith?

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3. How can we draw strength from Jesus to continue, even during adversity, like He did?

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4. Describe a challenge that you have faced as a believer of Jesus. How were you able to overcome that challenge and how has it changed you?

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5. How does your servant leadership express what type of relationship you have with God?

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6. When we are obedient to God and are willing to serve others no matter their situation in life, those around us may criticize or be surprised by our efforts. How could these criticisms diminish our joy and affect how we see people? How can we drown out the negative and focus on Jesus?

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7. Why do you think that sometimes we have unrealistic beliefs about what it means to be a Christian? Why do we think it should be easy?

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8. From observing others, as well as considering your own life, do you feel adversity draws people closer to God or causes them to lose confidence and trust in Him?

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9. David was another great leader in the Bible who suffered adversity. His response was often worship. How could worshiping through adversity help?

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### Bible References

John 1:11  
John 6:66  
John 7:5  
John 14:5-10  
John 14:31 ESV

John 16:33  
John 18:2, 5, 17, 25, 27  
Matthew 23:37-39  
Matthew 12:9-13  
Mark 3:15

Luke 6:6-10  
Mark 14:50  
Acts 5:41  
Matthew 8:20  
Luke 9:58

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## Session 3: Jesus the Servant Leader: Practice what you Preach

1. Why do you think practicing what you preach is so important?

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2. Do you think that people use a leader's not practicing what he/she preaches as justification for not following the preaching themselves?

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3. Jesus always did the will of His Father. How do we know what God's will is so we can follow in Jesus' example?

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4. All who believe in Jesus Christ have experienced forgiveness. Why then is it so difficult for us to forgive others at times?

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5. Why is it important to have faith and trust in God's purpose for us?

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6. Jesus taught another lesson in servant leadership: the importance of fulfilling what you are called to do. Why is this an important aspect of servant leadership? What do you feel called by God to do? What might prevent you from fulfilling that calling?

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7. How can we make the lessons that Jesus taught us on the cross a part of our life?

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8. What are other examples, besides the ones in the video, of Jesus demonstrating what He taught?

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9. When He said, "but he who endures to the end shall be saved," Jesus indicated there would be some hard times ahead for His disciples. What do you feel people understand "enduring to the end" to mean in this age?

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### **Bible References**

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Luke 23:34, 46  
Mark 11:25-26

Mark 15:39  
Matthew 10:22

Matthew 24:9-13  
Matthew 27:46