

COMMUNITY GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Freedom to Serve (Season 2) | Pastor Mike McKinney

Monday, Sept 29 - Sunday, Oct 5 (Week 3)

EMPHASIS FOR THE MONTH: **Laying a Foundation & Building Relational Capital**

As our groups get started this semester, let's be intentional about creating space for people to really get to know one another. Building relational capital doesn't happen all at once, it grows when we leave time for conversation, listen well, and encourage members to share life together. This month, prioritize slowing down the agenda, leaving room before and after meetings for fellowship, and finding simple ways to help group members connect. Strong relationships built now will become the foundation for deeper discipleship and care in the months ahead.

ICE BREAKER: If you had to choose one household chore you would never have to do again, what would it be and why?

CAB ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. Prime Timers (50+) please join us for an evening of fellowship that will include a German dinner, a devotional by Jeff Burkes, and a time of group games. A part of the dinner will be catered, but your help will be needed with side dishes, desserts, and beverages. Please sign-up in our Monday email newsletter or by emailing info@churchatbergen.org. Thank you! Any questions, please contact Kris Rienstra at kgrienstra@gmail.com
2. If you are interested in learning more about our doctrine and vision, church leadership structure, and qualifications for membership, join our LAST Membership Class for this year on Wednesday, October 8, 2025, through ZOOM from 7:15-8:45 PM. Email info@churchatbergen.org to register.
3. Our next Child Dedication Class will be held on Saturday, October 18 at 10:00 AM at the Hicks' home in Paramus. This class is an important step for parents who wish to dedicate their children and learn more about what it means. Please fill out the form in our Monday email newsletter. Questions? Contact our BergenKIDS Director, Barbara Krieger.
4. We hope you will join us every Tuesday at 6:30 PM for our weekly prayer gathering.

PRAYER FOR DISCUSSION: Leader or Co-Leader prays for the discussion time. Pray that The Holy Spirit would assist in the conversing, processing, and listening of the discussion.

SERMON DISCUSSION TIME: Have someone read this week's scripture from John 13:1-20, and then this sermon summary to jog everyone's memory:

What would hold you back from serving others? Pastor Mike explores the transformative power of Christ's servant leadership through the lens of John 13. Diving into Jesus washing His disciples' feet on the night before His crucifixion, Pastor Mike reveals how true servanthood flows from experiencing Christ's perfect, never-ending love. Despite bearing the weight of His impending death and betrayal, Jesus demonstrated selfless service, not despite being God, but because of who He is. The sermon



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challenges us to examine what holds us captive, whether fear, pride, or feeling overwhelmed, and points to Jesus' sacrificial love as the key to breaking free. Through vivid examples from marriage to church life, Pastor Mike illustrates how surrendering to Christ's lordship enables us to serve others vulnerably, even when it risks pain. He concludes with a stirring call to action: true blessing comes not from merely knowing we should serve, but from actually doing it under the banner of Christ's transforming love.

QUESTION #1 - The sermon named several barriers to serving: feeling overwhelmed, fear of being hurt, pride, or indifference. Which of these resonates most with you right now? Why?

QUESTION #2 - Serving others often involves risk: risk of rejection, betrayal, or being taken for granted. Can you share a time when serving someone cost you emotionally, relationally, or spiritually? How did Jesus meet you in that experience?

QUESTION #3 - John 13:1 says Jesus “loved them to the end.” How does experiencing Jesus’ personal love for you free you to serve others even when it’s costly?

QUESTION #4 - Think of the person in your life that would be hardest for you to “wash their feet,” as the sermon described. What would it look like to serve that person this week in a tangible way? *(Please encourage people to NOT share who this person is)*

QUESTION #5 - For those who are married: What’s one practical way you could serve your spouse this week without expecting anything in return? For parents: What’s one way you could serve your children in a Christlike way? For singles: What’s one intentional way you could serve a roommate, friend, coworker, or neighbor in the coming week?

PRAY TOGETHER: Spend time taking **and recording** prayer requests and then pray together as a group *(I strongly encourage you to send out the prayer requests weekly to your group to keep everyone informed and in the loop on how to pray for one another throughout the week. This also makes it easier to check-in with people who have shared requests to see how the Lord has been working in their lives).*



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