

# Love Walk Act

## 1. Love Mercy

Start off with feedback from Sunday's message. What did those that were there - or those that have caught up online - take away from it? What encouraged them, what informed them and what challenged them?

Read Luke 7.36-50

*<sup>45</sup> 'You did not give me a kiss, but this woman, from the time I entered, has not stopped kissing my feet. <sup>46</sup> You did not put oil on my head, but she has poured perfume on my feet. <sup>47</sup> Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven – as her great love has shown. But whoever has been forgiven little loves little.'*

- *Micah 6.8. "And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God."* What strikes you about this verse? How does this list of God's basis requirements differ from most Christians' idea of what God wants? Why is it important that we focus on Bible verses like this?
- Philip said that religious people focus on **believing** the right things and **doing** things for God. Do you agree? Why does this tend to make religious people unloving, unmerciful and judgemental of others?
- Luke 7. Be honest, who do you identify with most easily in this story – the religious leader or the prostitute?
- If people that are forgiven more love more (v47), does this mean that you can't love God very much if you've been a fairly good person?
- Love is a sign that we've been forgiven. How effectively do you think you are at demonstrating this sign in your own life?
- How can we as a group grow in loving mercy, walking humbly and acting justly?

Big Idea: 'Love is the definitive sign that we know Jesus and have been forgiven by him. Religious people love judgement but forgiven sinners love mercy.'

Break down into smaller groups and pray for each other. Pray for the death of any remnant of religiousness inside us. Pray for a fresh experience of the extent of God's forgiveness of us in Christ. Pray that we would be overwhelmed by a new sense of love for Jesus and love for mercy.

Pray also that we as a group – and Metro as a church – would be known for loving mercy and being extravagant in compassion. Pray that love would be a sign that characterises us.

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## 2. How We Do Serving

Start off with feedback from Sunday's message. What did those that were there - or those that have caught up online - take away from it? What encouraged them, what informed them and what challenged them?

Read John 13.1-17

**15** I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. **16** Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. **17** Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.

- v3. 'Jesus knew.... so'. Why does John make the connection between what Jesus knew about himself and his decision to serve? Do you think you need to be secure in your identity in order to serve others? Why?
- v15. 'you should do as I have done for you'. Do you think Christians are more comfortable believing things than actually doing things? Is this your experience?
- v17. 'you will be blessed if you do them'. Is it really true that serving others leads to us being blessed – or is this just something people say to manipulate you into serving? Have you experienced any 'blessing' through putting others first and serving them?
- Where are you serving right now? Can you identify at all with the things Chloe described when talking about her serving experiences?
- Chloe talked about ultimate culture change. What would it look like if everyone that was part of Metro genuinely picked up the 'servant heart' of Jesus? What difference would it make to our lives individually, our church community, and our city as a whole?

Big Idea: 'Following Jesus means Serving Others. And as we serve others, starting where we are and moving out, we end up getting blessed too.'

Pray for one another in twos and threes. Pray for us to be appropriately challenged to serve others as Jesus has served us. Pray for renewed strength for those tired of serving. Pray that this group is a place where we all get to serve. Pray for our serving to spill out into our city.

Pray that we would each become like our Master, Jesus, who gives us the ultimate example of a servant leader.

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## 3. How We Do Giving

Start off with feedback from Sunday's message. What did those that were there - or those that have caught up online - take away from it? What encouraged them, what informed them and what challenged them?

Read Luke 12.13-34

**32** Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom. **33** Sell your possessions and give to the poor. Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out, a treasure in heaven that will never fail, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. **34** For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

- Why do so many of us worry about money? When it comes to money, what things do you worry about most – and why?
- How do you feel about Jesus' description of greed as using your resources purely for yourself? Do you think it's fair that this man is described as a fool?
- Have you ever fallen into the same trap of assuming your money is for you?
- 'Anarchy says, All Property is Theft. The Bible says, All Property is Trust.' Discuss.
- What would it mean for you personally to be rich towards God? What things get in the way of that? What things give us confidence to be more rich towards God and less prone to greed?
- *Read 1 Corinthians 16.2.* What do you think of the Biblical model of giving – Prioritised ('on the first day'), Programmed ('set aside a sum') and Proportional (*in keeping with your income*)?

Big Idea: 'We overcome the power of Greed and Worry in our lives by being rich towards God, Giving in a way that is Prioritised, Programmed and Proportional.'

Pray together in smaller groups. Pray particularly for those experiencing worries and stress about money. Pray for a fresh revelation of God as a generous provider. Pray for Him to give the 'daily bread' that we need.

Pray for an overflow generosity and the faith needed to be rich towards God.