



February 22nd
"Living Beyond Myself"
The Great Gamble

Big Idea: "Those who want to save their life will lose it, but those who lose their life for me will save it."

Day after day advertising campaigns pound each of us with the message that "Life is all about you." It is all about satisfying your desires, having whatever you want whenever you want it. This series and this lesson will discover that Jesus calls us to a new identity. We are called to another path. He models and teaches that fulfillment is found in serving others. The question is, do we believe that? Are we willing to trust that?

Open it:

- What cultural messages do we receive everyday that reinforces a self-serving attitude? Consider these:
 - Advertising
 - The movies
 - The marketplace
- Growing up, what value did your family place on serving others? Was it important? How has that affected your attitude?

Dig it:

1. Read Philippians 2:3-8: What strikes you most about Jesus' example as a servant? Think about His ministry. What examples can you remember that illustrate this attitude?
2. Read John 13:3-17: What is the significance of verse 3? How does "knowing where he came from" affect what he did? How does our identity as a Christian influence your willingness and ability to serve others?
3. Think practically about your life. What opportunities exist everyday where you can serve? Who do you encounter that you could serve in some way?

Reflect on it:

1. Can you think of someone who has lived the "Great Gamble" and has picked up a towel and lived beyond himself or herself? What has sustained them over the long haul?
2. Read Matthew 16:25. What is difficult about taking Jesus at His word? What do we "lose" if you choose to serve Jesus and others?
3. Sometimes a small physical object can symbolize a spiritual concept and remind us of a commitment we take seriously (like a wedding ring). Identify something that might symbolize your desire to live as a servant? Share it with the group.

Do it:

1. Take the Great Gamble this week and serve. Maybe a one-day or even a part of a day. Come back next week and report.
2. Pray !!

