

Guidelines for lesson 19

Serving One Another

AIMS OF LESSON 19

For each learner to:

- a. Be committed to use their gifts humbly, to serve each other.
- b. Support the church leaders and understand their responsibilities.
- c. Memorize 1 Peter 4:10.

TO START THE MEETING

START WITH PRAYER

LAST WEEK'S PRACTICAL TASK:

- Say: "Lesson 19's Practical Task was to check if there was any influence from magic or holy men in your past. Have you all done that task?"
- "If you still have worries or about this, please see me privately. I will be glad to discuss it with you."

TODAY'S TOPIC


- Say: "God has given us various gifts and abilities. Today we will learn how to use these gifts to serve God and serve each other."

ANSWERS TO THE LESSON REVIEW

- Say: "Turn together to Lesson 19 Review and ask what the learner(s) wrote."
Question 1: a) different; b) each; c) for service
Question 2: 'Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others' (1 Peter 4:10).

A) SERVING ONE ANOTHER (*Introduction & Questions 1-3*)

Look at the picture, and explain that this is what Jesus did for his closest disciples on the night before he went to the cross.

 **Read** John 13:3-5,12-17.

Say slowly, with pauses:

- “Look at the feet in this picture. Imagine they are your feet.”
- “Look at the hands in this picture. Imagine they are Christ’s hands.”
- “Christ is washing your feet!”
- “What does this make you feel? Talk to your Lord now about this now, in your heart.”


 **Ask:**

- “What were your emotions when you thought about the Lord Jesus Christ washing your feet?”
[Discuss together.]

Cultural Clue: Foot Washing in Muslim Cultures

Many Muslims live in cultures where the feet are considered to be very dirty, much like in Jesus’ day. To ‘lift one’s heel’ against someone or to throw a shoe at someone is seen as a great insult. Washing someone else’s feet, then, is a profound way of demonstrating Jesus’ humble example.

Question 2

 **Read** the whole question.

 **Ask:**

- “In the cultures we come from, do leaders serve their followers in this way?” *[No, it hardly ever happens, especially in cultures where leaders stand on their respect.]*
- “But our greatest leader Jesus Christ bent low to wash our feet. What should we now do?”
[See the box. He says ‘I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you’. So we like him should bend low to wash each other’s feet, to serve each other.]
- “Will leaders lose people’s respect by serving them as Christ did?” *[Not necessarily, but we will discuss this more later in today’s lesson.]*

B) GIFTS FOR SERVICE (*Questions 4-18*)

Question 4


 **Read** 1 Peter 4:10-11.

Practise the memory verse: 'Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others' (1 Peter 4:10).

 **Ask:**

- "According to verse 10, do we all have a gift?" [*Yes. It says 'each of you'.*]
 - "What should we each do with our gift?" [*Use it to serve others, verse 10.*]
 - "Of the many different gifts mentioned in God's Word, which two gifts are found in verse 11?" [*'Speaking' and 'serving'.*]
 - "In verse 11, how should 'the one who speaks' fulfil his responsibility?" [*'As one speaking the very words of God'. He should take this responsibility seriously and fulfil it very well.*]
 - "In verse 11, how should 'the one who serves' fulfil his responsibility?" [*'With the strength God provides'. He should take this responsibility seriously and fulfil it very well.*]
 - "According to the last part of verse 11, with what purpose should we use our gifts: to bring praise to us or to God?" [*To God; 'so that in all things God may be praised'.*]
 - "Let's say the last part of verse 11 all together in a loud voice." [*Together: 'To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever! Amen!'*]
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Question 9 (Different people have different gifts)

 **Read** the story in the box and the paragraph that follows.

 **Ask:**

- "What did you write here?" [*Discuss together. We all have strengths but we also have weaknesses. We are all 'blind' or 'crippled' in some way. Not one of us is complete and perfect by ourselves. But my weaknesses are your strengths. So we need each other in our local group of believers. We should appreciate each other's strengths and tolerate each other's weaknesses.*]
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Question 11 (Each of us has a gift)

Look at the pictures.

 **Ask:**

- "What gift for service has God given to Fayzia?" [*A gift of encouraging others.*]
 - "How did Laila help Fayzia?" [*By telling her what is her gift.*]
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Question 13

 **Read** the whole of question 13.

 **Ask:**

- “What different kinds of service do you think would help build up a local group of believers?” *[Discuss together. There are many kinds, e.g. teaching adults from God’s Word, or teaching children, or leading worship, or praying for the sick, or advising people, or making tea, or others....]*
 - “How can we find out what are our gifts?” *[It is mentioned here in question 13. See below.*
 - First we try any particular kind of service, according to the opportunity.
 - Then we ask ourselves three questions:
 - Do other believers think I am good at it?
 - Do I see positive results from it?
 - Do I enjoy it?'
 - Then, if the answer to all three questions is 'yes', probably we have a gift for that particular kind of service. However, we will only use it if others ask us to. We will not push ourselves forward.]
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Question 15 (We should use our gifts humbly)

 **Read** the whole of question 15.

 **Ask:**

- “What reasons did you give for Samir being the leader?” *[Discuss together. He has many gifts for leadership.]*
 - “What reasons did you give against Samir being the leader?” *[Discuss together. The main problem is his proud attitude.]*
 - “So there are reasons for and against. What should that group of believers decide to do?” *[Discuss together. There is no one 'right' answer, but below are our suggestions.*
 - Maybe one older believer should talk with Samir about his proud attitude.
 - Also, they could give him a junior responsibility, to test him. He should fulfil this responsibility under the authority of an older leader.
 - If he does it well, with a humble attitude, he may be given more responsibility. But if he is proud, then he should wait longer.
 - And the group should not appoint him as the only leader. Always it is good to have two or more leaders working together as a team.]
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Question 17

 **Read** the whole of question 17.

 **Ask:**

- “Who is more important in God’s sight, the person who preaches or the person who serves a meal?” *[Discuss together. In our opinion, both are equally important. It is good to thank people who serve us. We should thank those who preach and we should thank those who serve meals.]*
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C) SERVING AS LEADERS (Questions 19 -25)

Cultural Clue: Leadership Issues in BMB groups

Disunity is distressingly common in BMB fellowships, both in Muslim countries and in the West. For an individual Muslim to become Christ's follower is hard; for those followers to come together as a group is harder; for that group to remain united under mature leaders is harder still. Good leadership of BMB groups is a hugely important topic!

The 'Come Follow Me' course is for new believers, so it hardly touches on issues of leadership. These are briefly introduced here in this lesson, but you can follow this up more in future, when the learner(s) are ready for it.

Question 21

 **Read** the whole of question 21.

 **Ask:**

- "Which answers did you tick here?" *[Discuss together. In our opinion, a), b) and e) are correct.]*
- "Therefore, what should be the characteristics of a good leader in Christ's church?" *[Discuss together. A good leader should be unselfish, should care more for the people's welfare than his own, and should sacrifice himself for them.]*


Question 22

 **Read** 1 Peter 5:1-4.

 **Ask:**


- "Verses 2-3 draw a contrast between worldly leaders and Christian leaders, in three ways. What are these three?"
*[1. 'not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be';
2. 'not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve';
3. 'not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock'.]*
- "For whose benefit do worldly leaders work?" *[For their own benefit, and their own family.]*
- "For whose benefit do Christ-like leaders work?" *[For the benefit of the believers, who are their spiritual family.]*
- "Is it hard or easy to be a good shepherd, following Christ's example?" *[It is very hard. Therefore we should support our leaders who do this hard task for our sake.]*
- "How should the local believers help their leaders do this difficult task?" *[Discuss together. In our opinion, they should pray for them, respect them, encourage them and be grateful to them. They should not complain about them behind their backs. Rather, if they have a complaint or a suggestion they should go to talk personally to the leaders, with respect.]*

Question 25

 **Read** the second paragraph of question 25.

 **Ask:**

- “What do you think about this? Is it possible?” *[Discuss together. In our opinion it is possible. The leader who serves is still a leader. They have authority to lead and the people should respect this. Their respect comes not from fear but from love. The leader serves them by sacrificing himself or herself for their benefit. They know this and so they follow their leader willingly.]*

 **Read** the teacher’s speech bubble at the end of question 25.

TO FINISH THE MEETING

ASK:

- “What difference will today’s lesson make in your life?”
[Each person should share, including you as advisor.]

READ the Lesson 19 Practical Task

SAY:

- “For your Practical Task this week, do you all have a friend whom you can ask about this... a friend who knows you well?”
- Remember to do the home study for chapter 20.

CLOSE IN PRAYER

- Look again at the picture at the beginning of this lesson.
- Think again about Christ washing our feet. Ask him to help us serve others as he has served us.