PWOC

Protestant Women of the Chapel

Materials:

Whiteboard or
Chart paper
Markers

WORKSHOP: Life "On Mission": *A Servant Lifestyle*

by Julie McCammon

LEADER'S GUIDE

RELEVANCE: Jesus Christ—from God, fully God, Creator, Sustainer, Master of the Universe—revealed Himself to humanity as *Servant*. So important was this concept of servanthood, that He gave His disciples an illustrated lesson with the bowl and the towel for twelve sets of dirty feet on the very night He was betrayed. It was as if Jesus was saying, "This you must remember above all else." Oh how we need to remember! Life, leadership, and relationships become so much less than they could be when we forget to serve. A life "on mission," attuned to the marching orders of Jesus is such a rich way to live and lead. It allows those around us to see Jesus; there is no higher calling.

CONTEXT: This workshop is appropriate for anyone desiring to follow the example of Christ. It can serve as an excellent reminder for those in leadership positions (PWOC Board and otherwise) of the tremendous humility and selflessness we are called to display. Portions of the workshop could be adapted for a devotion, for Facilitator Training, or other leadership training.

TIME: 60-75 minutes

HOOK YOUR AUDIENCE: **Royal Protocol** (2-3 minutes)

Today we'll be meeting Royalty, so I want to make sure we're all ready! Should you have the opportunity to meet the King of England, King Charles, you should greet him as "Your Majesty," not "Your Royal Highness," which is a lower term. Or you could use his full title, which by virtue of the Royal Titles Act of 1953 is "Charles the third, by the Grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and of His other Realms and Territories King, Head of the Commonwealth, Defender of the Faith." (Hooah!)

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Here are some other tips for mingling with the King:

- Be sure to stand when the King enters the room.
- Do not speak unless spoken to.
- Do not ask questions about his personal life.
- Do not change the topic of conversation.
- Do not mimic his accent…it's not an accent…he's the King of English.
- Do not touch the King; it's illegal.
- Do not shake his hand, unless he offers you his hand first…and if you do shake, keep it short.
- If joining the King for a meal, do not take your first bite before the King takes his.
- Do not slurp your tea.
- Do not raise the saucer off the table when taking a sip of tea. Return your tea cup to the saucer in between sips.
- You must stop eating after the King has taken his last bite.
- Do not call the King "Charlie" or "Chuck" (blink, blink).

Note to Trainer: This Hook is meant to draw a sharp contrast between how people of status expect to be treated (both in our day and age as well as in Bible times), compared to how Jesus, King of Kings, Master of the Universe, Sovereign, Lord of All, expected to be treated. He made Himself highly accessible. He touched those that society deemed "untouchable." He broke down social barriers, communicating comfortably with women, children, Samaritans and other "off limits" people. He shared meals with those that would've been seen as the dregs of society. Jesus was remarkable in how he drew people in and made them feel at home with Him.

MAKE YOUR POINT 1: **Who Jesus Is** (5-10 minutes)

Now I want us to think about Jesus Christ for a few minutes. Of all the people who have ever lived, none deserved the red carpet treatment more than Him—He is the Royalty of all royalty. He could've snapped His fingers, demanding service, and He would've thoroughly deserved being served. The "no touching" rule/law of the King of England certainly could have been applied to maintain a proper distance from His lower subjects (i.e. every single person in the world). Jesus could have insisted on protocol to moderate the behavior and interactions with those who surrounded Him, yet this is not at all who we meet in Scripture. We are introduced to an unpretentious son of a carpenter. We see a man who watches for those on the fringes of society and draws them in. He captivates us with His loving words and generous heart. He takes our breath away as He pulls children into His ready lap and blesses them. We are honored to walk the dusty roads with Him and to listen in as He tells about God's love. Our spirits soar as we see the Healer touch the broken. We can hardly grasp His words in Matthew when Jesus says, "...whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave- just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many" (Matthew 20:26b-27).

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Let's take a look at a passage that describes **who Jesus is**:

Colossians 1:15-20 (NIV) says:
He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by Him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by Him and for Him. He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. And He is the head of the body, the church; He is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything He might have the supremacy. For God was pleased to have all His fullness dwell in Him, and through Him to reconcile to Himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through His blood, shed on the cross.

We're going to make a chart to list words and phrases that describe **who Jesus is**.
(Note: You may wish to have your participants go back and silently underline/circle those descriptive words, or you can dive right in and find them together.)

> ***Note to trainer:*** *Draw a "T" chart on a whiteboard or chart paper. On the left side of the "T" write "**Who Jesus Is**." On the right side, write "**How Jesus Acted/Interacted**." This chart will also appear in the Participant's Guide. Have your participants look back through this passage from Colossians 1:15-20 to pull out words and phrases that describe Christ- like "the image of the invisible God" or "the beginning" or "Creator." After you are done adding to the chart, have your participants work in groups of 3-4. Assign one passage from Activity 1 to each group. If you happen to have more than 24 people in your workshop (6 passages x 4 participants), then simply give more than one group the same passage.*

ACTIVITY 1: **Who Jesus Is** (10 minutes)

You will be working in a group of 3-4 people, using one of the passages below (one will be assigned to you). Read through your passage. Use the chart below to write down words or phrases that describe **Who Jesus Is**. Stay on the left side of the chart only. Your group will have the chance to share answers to contribute to the class chart.

- Isaiah 9:1-7 — *To us a Child is born (Messianic passage)*
- Philippians 2:1-11 — *Imitating Christ's Humility*
- Colossians 2:6-15 — *Spiritual Fullness in Christ*
- Hebrews 1:1-9 — *The Supremacy of God's Son*
- Revelation 1:1-8 — *The Revelation of Jesus Christ*
- Revelation 22:12-16 — *The Return of Jesus Christ*

> ***Note to trainer:*** *Give your groups a set amount of time to work together—5 minutes should be sufficient. Come back together as a class. Allow "popcorn" answers and record what is shared, adding to the chart started with Colossians 1:15-20. It's good practice and a form of respect to use their exact words as you record responses.*

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Who Jesus Is	**How Jesus Acted/Interacted**
Image of the invisible God *Creator* *Head of the Church*	

MAKE YOUR POINT 2: **How Jesus Acted/Interacted** (5-10 minutes)

Quite a list of credentials, isn't it? There is simply no comparison between Jesus and any human being on earth—past, present or future. He is royalty beyond what we can ever comprehend. He is vastly superior. Utterly pure. Deserving of all glory, all accolades, all worship and recognition. And yet…He takes the bowl and the towel and we are speechless. Washing feet was the lowest of the low—a job for "the new guy," the lowest on the totem pole. It might be something like the King of England coming to your house and scrubbing toilets; it just wouldn't happen. Perhaps none of the disciples wanted to lower themselves to offer that particular service on the night of their Passover Feast. Doubtless, it was noted that the job needed to be done; it was common practice upon entering a building. Jesus, Creator, Messiah, Alpha and Omega, shocks us as He takes the bowl. This is His last act before He announces He will be betrayed…and, yep, He washed those feet too. Let's take a look at the passage from John 13:1-17 (NIV).

It was just before the Passover Feast. Jesus knew that the time had come for Him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved His own who were in the world, He now showed them the full extent of His love.
The evening meal was being served, and the devil had already prompted Judas Iscariot, son of Simon, to betray Jesus. Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under His power, and that He had come from God and was returning to God, so He got up from the meal, took off His outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around His waist. After that, He poured water into a basin and began to wash His disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around Him.

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He came to Simon Peter, who said to Him, 'Lord, are you going to wash my feet?'
Jesus replied, 'You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand.'
'No,' said Peter, 'you shall never wash my feet.'
Jesus answered, 'Unless I wash you, you have no part with me.'
'Then, Lord,' Simon Peter replied, 'not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!'
Jesus answered, 'A person who has had a bath needs only to wash his feet; his whole body is clean. And you are clean, though not every one of you.' For He knew who was going to betray Him, and that was why He said not every one was clean.
When He had finished washing their feet, He put on His clothes and returned to His place.
'Do you understand what I have done for you?' He asked them. 'You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. I tell you the truth, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.

Let's add words or phrases to the right side of our chart that describe **how Jesus acted or interacted** with the disciples. Look back through this story; what do you see? *Record their answers on the chart. Once the interaction slows down, have them get back in their groups and assign a new passage of Scripture to each group (see Activity 2). Instruct them to use the right side of their chart to note how Jesus acts and interacts in their passage. Note that there are seven passages this time.*

ACTIVITY 2: (10 minutes)

Get back in your same group of 3-4. One of the passages below will be assigned to you. Read through your passage. Use the right side of your chart to write down words or phrases that describe **How Jesus Acted/Interacted** with the people in your story. Your group will have the chance to share answers to contribute to the class chart.

- Matthew 14:14-21 *Jesus Feeds the Five Thousand*
- Mark 14:1-9 *Jesus Anointed at Bethany*
- Luke 8:40-48 *The Woman with the Issue of Blood*
- Luke 13:10-17 *A Crippled Woman Healed on the Sabbath*
- Luke 19:1-9 *Zacchaeus the Tax Collector*
- John 4:1-26 *Jesus and the Samaritan Woman*
- John 8:2-11 *The Woman Caught in Adultery*

Note to trainer: *Let the groups work together for about 5 minutes. Follow the same process to fill out the right side of the chart. It's good to walk through the room to listen to discussion. This will give you a fuller picture of how your participants are processing the information. You may hear an answer that is not offered later when you are filling out the chart. You might choose to add it, perhaps anonymously, "I heard somebody say _____."*

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MAKE YOUR POINT 3: Life "On Mission"- Nudges, Divine Appointments and Dirty Jobs (10 minutes)

Washing the disciples' feet was a piece of Jesus' parting message to them—giving them an object lesson that would be remembered daily, every time their feet were washed. Christ showed them the full extent of His love, by serving them. We see this gentle, loving, serving approach over and over again in each of the stories we've just read.

Why did Jesus act the way He did? What was His driving force? Listen to Jesus' own words:

- *My food is to do the will of Him who sent me and to finish His work.* –John 4:34
- *By myself I can do nothing; I judge only as I hear, and my judgment is just, for I seek not to please myself but Him who sent me.* –John 5:30
- *For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of Him who sent me.* –John 6:38
- *…the world must learn that I love the Father and that I do exactly what my Father has commanded me…* –John 14:31

Jesus was "on mission," seeking only to do the will of the Father. Everything He did, everything He said, everywhere He went, everyone He touched, was all according to His Father's will. As the ultimate servant, Jesus did the bidding of His master, His Father. He invites us into this life *on mission*.

- *If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father's commands and remain in His love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends.* –John 15:10-13

This is upside down, counter cultural—we struggle to grasp this concept. Serving tends to make us feel small, insignificant, "less than." We don't want to be "the new guy" on stinky feet duty. Jesus says in serving Him our joy will be complete? If we can get past our culture, our pride, and self-centeredness, we can move into an arena of life that is Spirit-led, full of purpose and, yes, joy!

Let's talk about **Nudges**, **Divine Appointments** and **Dirty Jobs**.

There is no greater thrill than hearing God's voice and doing His will. One way to live life "on mission" is to recognize when God **nudges** us to action of some sort. The more we obey those little nudges—*say this, do that, go here, serve*—the better we get at recognizing God's voice. The more familiar we are with His Word, the more we recognize His heart and His handiwork.

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Have you ever experienced a "nudge" from God? Anyone willing to share? *Allow an opportunity for volunteers to share. Leave enough time. Don't worry if it's silent for a minute. You may choose to share your own nudge story if the class is not very interactive.*

Another way we can experience life "on mission" is through **Divine appointments.** What is a Divine Appointment? *The gist of the answer should be that it's some sort of setup or "coincidental" meeting, ordained by God, when you 'just happened' to be in the right place at the right time to do His work. If time allows, you can have participants share their own experiences.*

Let's talk for a minute about those **dirty jobs** in life. How in the world can we experience life "on mission" through mundane, thankless jobs that we all have to do? Give me some ways that we can transform earthly, perhaps unpleasant jobs into jobs that invite God's Spirit, and therefore are of spiritual value. An example might be to pray over family members as you wash and fold their clothes. Or, perhaps you work for a difficult boss. Could you dedicate your workplace, your actions to God? *Allow your participants to share.*

Colossians 3:17 says, "And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him."

Mother Teresa said, "The work we do is only our love for Jesus in action. If we pray the work…if we do it to Jesus, if we do it for Jesus, if we do it with Jesus…that's what makes us content."

Life on mission, divine appointments, nudges, inviting God into the dirty jobs…it's a thrilling way to live! No social status, no earthly possession, no popularity can even begin to compare to hearing the voice of God and following His directions. The One who spoke the world into existence speaks to me and He speaks to you.

ACTIVITY 3: (10 minutes)

Get back in your group of 3-4 and take a few moments to list the various roles, or areas of service in your life- include relationships like *wife, sister, friend…*as well as jobs (formal or informal, paid or volunteer). Discuss these questions with your group:

- How might God be calling you to live a life "on mission" within your various roles? Do some of your roles feel small, unnoticed, insignificant? Are you willing to invite Jesus there?
- Do you have a role that seems important, noticed, elevated? Are you willing to invite Jesus there?
- Are you willing to do what Jesus calls you to do, one minute, one situation at a time? Are you ready to live your life "on mission?"

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Give groups about 10 minutes to discuss these questions, then call everyone back together. Instruct them, as individuals, to complete the "Apply it to Life" section. Leave a few minutes of silence for this closing task. After a few moments, close the workshop with prayer.

APPLY IT TO LIFE: (5 minutes)

How will you walk this out? Use a footprint below to write down one way to apply this to your life this week. Add a meaningful Scripture to your footprint if you'd like. Take a couple minutes to do this and then we'll close in prayer.

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PARTICIPANT'S GUIDE

RELEVANCE: Jesus Christ—from God, fully God, Creator, Sustainer, Master of the Universe—revealed Himself to humanity as *Servant*. So important was this concept of servanthood, that He gave His disciples an illustrated lesson with the bowl and the towel for twelve sets of dirty feet on the very night He was betrayed. It was as if Jesus was saying, "This you must remember above all else." Oh how we need to remember! Life, leadership, and relationships become so much less than they could be when we forget to serve. A life "on mission," attuned to the marching orders of Jesus is such a rich way to live and lead. It allows those around us to see Jesus; there is no higher calling.

1. Who Jesus Is (5-10 minutes)

- Jesus says, "...whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave—just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many" (Matthew 20:26b-27).

- Colossians 1:15-20 (NIV) says:
  He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by Him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by Him and for Him. He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. And He is the head of the body, the church; He is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything He might have the supremacy. For God was pleased to have all His fullness dwell in Him, and through Him to reconcile to Himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through His blood, shed on the cross.

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ACTIVITY 1: Who Jesus Is

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- Hebrews 1:1-9 *The Supremacy of God's Son*
- Revelation 1:1-8 *The Revelation of Jesus Christ*
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Who Jesus Is	How Jesus Acted/Interacted

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2. How Jesus Acted/Interacted

- John 13:1-17 (NIV)
  It was just before the Passover Feast. Jesus knew that the time had come for Him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved His own who were in the world, He now showed them the full extent of His love.
  The evening meal was being served, and the devil had already prompted Judas Iscariot, son of Simon, to betray Jesus. Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under His power, and that He had come from God and was returning to God, so He got up from the meal, took off His outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around His waist. After that, He poured water into a basin and began to wash His disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around Him.
  He came to Simon Peter, who said to Him, 'Lord, are you going to wash my feet?'
  Jesus replied, 'You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand.'
  'No,' said Peter, 'you shall never wash my feet.'
  Jesus answered, 'Unless I wash you, you have no part with me.'
  'Then, Lord,' Simon Peter replied, 'not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!'
  Jesus answered, 'A person who has had a bath needs only to wash his feet; his whole body is clean. And you are clean, though not every one of you.' For He knew who was going to betray Him, and that was why He said not every one was clean.
  When He had finished washing their feet, He put on His clothes and returned to His place. 'Do you understand what I have done for you?' He asked them. 'You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. I tell you the truth, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.

ACTIVITY 2:

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3. Life "On Mission"- Nudges, Divine Appointments, Dirty Jobs

Why did Jesus act the way He did? What was His driving force? Listen to Jesus' own words:

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- *By myself I can do nothing; I judge only as I hear, and my judgment is just, for I seek not to please myself but Him who sent me.* –John 5:30
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- *…the world must learn that I love the Father and that I do exactly what my Father has commanded me…* –John 14:31

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- *If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father's commands and remain in His love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends.* –John 15:10-13

This is upside down, counter cultural—we struggle to grasp this concept. We don't want to be "the new guy" on stinky feet duty. If we can get past our culture, our pride, and self-centeredness, we can move into an arena of life that is Spirit-led, full of purpose and, yes, joy!

- Nudges

- Divine appointments

- Dirty jobs

"And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him." –Colossians 3:17

The work we do is only our love for Jesus in action. If we pray the work…if we do it to Jesus, if we do it for Jesus, if we do it with Jesus…that's what makes us content.

–Mother Teresa

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ACTIVITY 3:

Get back in your group of 3-4 and take a few moments to list the various roles, or areas of service in your life- include relationships like *wife, sister, friend…* as well as jobs (formal or informal, paid or volunteer) Discuss these questions with your group:

- My roles:

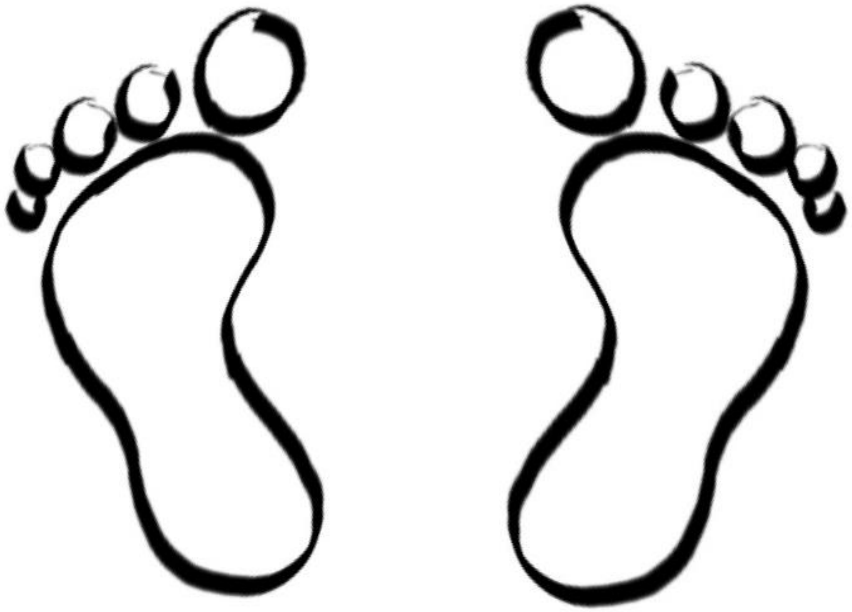
- How might God be calling you to live a life "on mission" within your various roles? Do some of your roles feel small, unnoticed, insignificant? Are you willing to invite Jesus there?

- Do you have a role that seems important, noticed, elevated? Are you willing to invite Jesus there?

- Are you willing to do what God calls you to do, one minute, one situation at a time? Are you ready to live your life "on mission?"

APPLY IT TO LIFE:

How will you walk this out? Use a footprint below to write down one way to apply this to your life this week. Add a meaningful Scripture to your footprint if you'd like. Take a couple minutes to do this and then we'll close in prayer.



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