

Victoria Fellowship Church
International & Interdenominational
Bible Study Worksheet – March 26, 2023

Theme: Servant Leadership Topic: Quarterly review – A Call to Action

Main Texts: Luke 4:14-21; Hebrews 12:1-2

Key verse: Hebrews 12:1b – *“let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us.”* (NLT)

INTRODUCTION: Over the last 12 Sundays, we have explored the subject of servant leadership. The series aimed to help us know what servant leadership is and looks like. It also sought to help our understanding of God’s expectation of us to be servant leaders in our spheres of influence, especially in the light of the leadership challenges confronting different sectors of our society. Afterwards, it is hoped that we will be better prepared to respond appropriately when called to serve, whether in praying, choosing servant leaders or being one ourselves. In one of our texts for today, we see Jesus announcing His ministry with the reading of a key piece of Scripture, spoken centuries prior by Prophet Isaiah. Afterwards, Jesus declared profoundly that, *“The Scripture you’ve just heard has been fulfilled this very day!”* (Luke 4:21b NLT). God wants His words to be fulfilled in us too!

1. **Read Mark 10:45, Hebrews 12:1-2. (a) Let participants share one thing they learned about servant leadership during this quarter series. (b) The things Jesus endured are examples of the cost of servant leadership. Let participants mention some costs they may have to pay to be servant leaders in their various spheres of influence. (c) Let one or two participants share a specific thing they plan to do in this regard in the next 1-7 days. What should we be praying for you concerning this application?**

Undoubtedly, Jesus’s mission on earth is to set captives free, open the eyes of the blind, and proclaim God’s forgiveness to a harassed and helpless humanity (Luke 4:18-19). Thus, Jesus’s ministry addresses both the spiritual and social aspects of life of a people. As someone said, *“The gospel of the kingdom that Jesus preaches saves us from hell, but it should also save us for making a kingdom impact on this world through our ‘good works’ that bring glory to God and benefit to people.”* While we may recognize these about the gospel and the impact it should have, we are often tempted to see Biblical examples of servant leadership (this cloud of witnesses) as something that took place when things were easier and or saner. And if the cloud of witnesses are contemporary ones, we think they were supermen and superwomen, or tell ourselves that they’re not Nigerians! But we are reminded that even *‘Elijah, was just as human as we are...’* (James 5:17 CEV)

2. **Read Luke 4: 15-16, Hebrews 12:1 (a) Hebrews 12:1a speaks of a cloud of witnesses. Let participants mention two or three of this cloud of witnesses we covered in this quarter series, regarding servant leadership, and what they have learned from them. (b) If these witnesses lived in our times, do you think they would have found it easy to be servant leaders? Why or why not? (c) What is it about the times we live in that makes it difficult to be servant leaders? Let a few participants share specific ways in which this quarter series will help them overcome the challenges of being servant leaders in the times we live in, especially in Nigeria.**

It is common to hear people talk about ‘the good old days’ as if to say there was a time when being a servant leader was easier. But we know from Scripture that the world we live in is a flawed one, almost right from the beginning. We also know from Scripture that all who had impacted their generation have done so with God’s help. So, we read how *‘Jesus returned to Galilee, filled with the Holy Spirit’s power.’* (Luke 4:14a NLT). And it is the same Spirit which was in Jesus that was in the Prophets of old (Romans 8:11) and in us who believe in Jesus Christ for salvation (1 Corinthians 2:12). And the Spirit’s power is the same through all the ages!

3. **Read Luke 4:14; Romans 8:11; 2 Peter 1:3 (a) Between us, believers now, and people like Nehemiah, who do you think has a better chance at being better servant leaders? Please explain your answer. (b) Apart from the Holy Spirit’s empowerment, what else do we need to be better servant leaders? (c) Jesus made a habit of attending and teaching in the synagogues in Galilee and Nazareth. Let participants mention a habit they will start cultivating to be better servant leaders. Who will hold you accountable, and who will you hold accountable to this call to be servant leaders?**

Prayer: *Dear Father, help me by the power of Your Holy Spirit to have courage to serve and lead as Jesus did to the glory of Your Great Name. Amen.*