

Concordia Seminary - Saint Louis

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Table Talk: Family Devotions

Resources for Ministry

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008. Humbly Serve

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TABLE TALK

Humbly Serve

Prepare:

As one person lights a candle, the family reads together: (based on Philippians 2:5-11)

C: Let us have the mind of Christ

R: Who emptied himself by taking the form of a servant

C: Let us have the mind of Christ

R: Who humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death.

C: Let us have the mind of Christ

Read: Read Matthew 23:1-12 (ESV)

23 Then Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples, 2 "The scribes and the Pharisees sit on Moses' seat, 3 so do and observe whatever they tell you, but not the works they do. For they preach, but do not practice. 4 They tie up heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on people's shoulders, but they themselves are not willing to move them with their finger. 5 They do all their deeds to be seen by others. For they make their phylacteries broad and their fringes long, 6 and they love the place of honor at feasts and the best seats in the synagogues 7 and greetings in the marketplaces and being called rabbi by others. 8 But you are not to be called rabbi, for you have one teacher, and you are all brothers. 9 And call no man your father on earth, for you have one Father, who is in heaven. 10 Neither be called instructors, for you have one instructor, the Christ. 11 The greatest among you shall be your servant. 12 Whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.

Reflect:

In our text for today Jesus exposes the Pharisees' preoccupation with status and authority. Jesus calls his followers to live differently; to live lives of humble service as brothers and sisters in Christ.

Take a moment to talk about what this passage (Matthew 23:1-12) means for you as a family.

Now share with one another one thing you can do differently as a member of your family.

Pray:

The head of the household prays:

Heavenly Father, who sent Your Son to humbly give Himself for us and our salvation, give us the mind of Christ. Help us to live lives of humble service as brothers and sisters. In the name of Jesus, Amen.