



## **Week One: How to Put Others First – Study Guide**

**August 2, 2014**

The struggle with living unselfishly begins at an early age. As children, we learn to use words like I, me, and mine in order to have things go our way and get the things we want. For Jesus followers, God calls us to live a life in which we selflessly love Him and others instead of pursuing the things we want. Priorities and relationships change when we live our lives this way. In this study, we are going to discuss our priorities and take a look at how we can truly win, God's way, when we stop living for ourselves.

### **Where Am I Today?**

- 1) Selfishness is often exposed through our priorities and how we treat other people. Take an honest look at your life. If you look at your priorities, as reflected in the way you actually live your life—work, God, hobbies, children, spouse, friendships, prayer, entertainment, social media, etc.—in what order of importance would you rank these? In what area(s) do you see yourself as having selfishly misplaced priorities? How would your spouse or family member answer those questions about you?

### **Into the Bible**

- 2) Read **Luke 15:11-16**. How can we see the prodigal son's selfishness in these verses? List some selfish behaviors that are evident.



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- 3) Read **Ecclesiastes 2:1-11**. Solomon’s definition of winning in life is often the same as ours—whoever dies with the most stuff wins. Now contrast this by reading **Psalm 119:33-40**. What are the differences between the two passages? Hint: look at how the first person pronouns—I and me—are used in these verses.

### How Does This Apply?

- 4) What areas of your life do you tend to have a “me” mentality? Where might you need to adjust your priorities so you can get back to placing God and others first?
  
- 5) Like Solomon and the prodigal son, describe a time in your life where you selfishly pursued what you wanted. What was the result and consequence of selfishly pursuing after the empty win?
  
- 6) Describe a time when you did put God and others first. What did that win look like for you? How did your relationships benefit from having your priorities in the right place?

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### Take Action

As summer ends and school starts back, we want to make sure that the kids we've been serving lunch to, and making friends with, have the right school supplies as they head back to class. To be a part, pick up an empty backpack and a school supply list during any Cove weekly service, fill the backpack with the supplies listed, and return it by August 17. These bags with supplies will be given to kids during our last Go Bananas Neighborhood Cookouts.

If you haven't yet joined a Go Bananas team, it's still not too late! We're hosting lunches and cookouts throughout August. Find out more about where and how you can serve at [www.covechurch.org/gobananas](http://www.covechurch.org/gobananas).

### Continue Learning on Your Own

- 7) Selfishness often stems from believing the lie that we need something more in order to have a better, more satisfying life. Read **Genesis 3:2-7**. How was Eve's selfish desire based on a lie? What are some area(s) where you believed a lie and it got you into trouble?

