

THOMAS MILLER

The Win

Focus We only have one life to live—one life to win. As a church, we must ask, *how do we win?* We win by serving people, pursuing God’s presence, and knowing who we are in Christ.

Fun Were you a competitive kid growing up? When were you the most competitive: Was it sports, contests, or sibling rivalry? Are you still competitive today?

Review Key Scriptures: John 13:1–15, Mark 10:45, Psalm 16:11

1. To win we must love people.

Jesus teaches us that love is about serving others. Foot washing was the lowest task for a slave in ancient Jewish culture. Jesus took on the form of a servant when He washed the disciples’ feet. He even washed the feet of both Peter who would deny Him and Judas who would betray Him. Jesus used His power to love and serve others. We must love and serve as Jesus did to **win** as a church.

2. To win we must pursue God’s presence.

Pursuing the presence of God is our highest priority. God desires to have a personal relationship with us and for us to dwell in His presence. And we need the presence of God more than anything. Even Moses said, “If You’re not with us, we have no reason to go.” When we come together, let’s expect God to do great things in our lives, families, cities, and churches. It all starts with pursuing God’s presence.

Group Dynamics Idea The most successful group leader is the leader who is led by the Holy Spirit in all areas. Fruitfulness in your group will be an outflow of being full of the Holy Spirit. Surrender your group and your leadership to the Holy Spirit’s leadership today (Psalm 37:5).

Discuss

1. Pastor Thomas Miller shared how he is competitive and wants to win. What would winning in life look like for you?
2. Do you think the disciples were uncomfortable when Jesus washed their feet? Have you ever had someone serve you in a way that made you feel deeply loved? How did this experience affect the way you serve others?
3. When Pastor Thomas said, "We must pursue the presence of God," what do you think he meant? How would you describe the presence of God?
4. Is there anything about the presence of God that confuses you, scares you, surprises you, or fascinates you? Explain.
5. How does pursuing the presence of God look practically in our lives on a daily basis? How can we share the presence of God with others?
6. Take a moment to be quiet before the Lord. Ask the Holy Spirit if there is any area in your life where you may have been resistant to the presence of God.
7. Now invite the Holy Spirit into that specific area and commit your life to Him anew today.

Take Home

As we conclude, remember the following:

- To win we need to be all about people.
- To win we need to be all about the presence of God.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, help us to love and serve others in a way that brings You glory and honor. Help us to depend on You in every area of our lives. Today, we commit to pursuing Your presence. In Jesus' name, Amen.

New Leader Tip People are just beginning to get to know each other. Help them build relationships with other members by connecting people with common interests, promoting sharing, and fostering an atmosphere of trust.