

Take some time to share:

One thing that you are thankful for this week.

One thing you are in need of (try and stick to one thing and personally related).

How can the group help?

Week 5 – SERVE

Message Big Idea: In order to BLESS our neighbor, Jesus invites us to serve.

Icebreaker & Opening Thought

1. What is one task that you hate and like to avoid?
2. When you hear the word serve, what comes to mind?

Bible Discussion

3. Read John 13:1-17. What details stand out to you about this story?
4. Some biblical scholars assert that foot washing was reserved for only the lowliest slaves. In what ways does Jesus' example come into conflict with our cultural values?
5. Jesus lived in a cultural setting that was considered an honor-shame society. Protecting your name, your reputation, and your dignity is critically important in an honor-shame culture. Your honor was like a social credit rating. The higher your honor score, the more privilege and prestige you enjoy. If you had a high honor score, other people were expected to serve you. What does Jesus' action reveal about the nature of God?

Life Application

6. What would be some contemporary equivalents to washing another person's feet in our culture today?
7. How can we cultivate a posture of readiness to serve others in big and small ways?
8. Who are some people you could serve? How could you reach out to them? How could you be in a posture of readiness?

Challenge- This story foreshadows the death of Christ on the cross, where we see the ultimate act of love. This love has been changing the world for the last 2,000 years, and the most vivid picture of love we can paint is to serve others the way Jesus served us. May we know the love of God through Christ. May we learn to value the things Jesus values. May we be a people who seek not to be served but to serve others.

Week 5 – Leader’s Guide

TIPS ON LEADING THE DISCUSSION

1. The icebreaker is designed so anyone can answer the question without having to think about too much. Make this fun and light-hearted.
2. The opening thought will introduce the group to the main point of the conversation.
3. The first verse in the narrative is packed with ideas. The Passover feast was the height of traditional Jewish feasts, and Jesus is applying its meaning to himself. Somehow this feast, Jesus serving them, and the forthcoming crucifixion is the way Jesus is serving and giving himself for his people. We also see that the time had come, which is the moment Jesus’ ministry has been building all along. Now Jesus will show the full extent of his love to his disciples.
4. The job of washing feet was reserved for the lowliest of slaves. Some scholars assert that Jewish slaves were exempt from this task. Jesus and his disciples would have reclined at the table with their feet to the outside of their gathering. That means Jesus would have not only humiliated himself with this action, but would have also put himself outside the circle. Those two observations could make for interesting discussion and Jesus and the way the church has been called to follow his example.
5. Conclude the meeting by asking the group members who and how they can BLESS others. Challenge the group to pray and look for ways to serve and then to share the next time you meet.