



**ICEBREAKER:** When was a time that you served others and a time that you were served that was encouraging?

**READ:** John 13:1-17

“But here Jesus reverses normal roles. His act of humility is as unnecessary as it is stunning, and is simultaneously a display of love (v. 1), a symbol of saving cleansing (vv. 6–9), and a model of Christian conduct (vv. 12–17).--D.A. Carson, John (PNTC)

### CONTENT QUESTIONS

**I. The Demonstration ::** Read John 13:1-5

“The footwashing - and the crucifixion itself, to which it pointed - was Jesus’ way of showing who God was and is. Next time Jesus has his clothes changed it will be to reveal him as ‘the man’, the king (19:5); after that he will be naked on the cross, revealing the father’s heart as he gives his life for the world.”

--Tom Wright, John For Everyone

1. What are some attributes of Jesus that are revealed in these 5 verses (power, humility, all-knowing, etc.)? How do they show who God is (quote above)?

2. What are the implications that Jesus washed the disciples feet with the knowledge that his brutal death was immanent (13:1) and that he washed the feet of the one who would betray him (13:2)?

3. How does Jesus respond (4-5) to the power (3) he has and will always have? How is this different than the use of power we see in people? Ourselves?

**II. The Denial ::** Read John 13:6-11

“The plain sense of Jesus’ words seems clear and almost proverbial: If you have been cleansed already, you don’t need to wash further. The cleansing work of Jesus--footwashing, symbolizing spiritual cleansing on the cross--is complete in itself and therefore Peter does not need to be anchored in 13:10.”

--Gary Burge, John (NIVAC)

1. How does Peter respond to Jesus seeking to serve him (6, 8, 9)? What is the difference between Jesus humility and Peter’s arrogance?

2. How does the Gospel, that you are completely accepted (cleansed of sin) through faith in Jesus' work on the cross (10), allow you be open to and seek areas that you can grow to be more like him? What are area's you want (need) to grow in (if you don't know---ask someone)?

3. Who are you more like: Peter who tries to tell Jesus (God) what to do or Judas who acts like he is following Jesus but inwardly rejects him (2, 11)?

### III. The Doing :: Read John 13:12-17

"Jesus said, "A student is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master". You and I may not die literally on a cross as Jesus did, but we will die in other ways when we incarnate. It costs time, energy, sometimes money, and, almost always, a disruption to our risk-free world. In the long run, however, it actually bears more fruit and is less work because it is more about being than doing."

--Peter Scazzero, The Emotionally Healthy Church

1. What does it mean to have Jesus as your Teacher and Lord (13)? How has that changed (and continue to change) your life?

2. Read Philippians 2:1-11. What is the picture of a life that is in response to Christ (2:1-4)? Dwell on and write about the motivation (2:5-11).

3. Brainstorm: what are simple, tangible ways you can serve others (think through a normal week--write stuff down)? What are the costs (quote above)?

### CONNECTING QUESTIONS

1. Do you believe that Jesus has washed and cleansed you of all your sin? What are things that you are still holding onto? How can the group encourage you to believe the Gospel?

2. How can you serve others? How can you allow others to serve you?

3. What is one passage, thought or idea that stood out to you in this lesson? Why? How can the group pray for you to apply it to your life?