

GROWTH GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

JESUS' LAST NIGHT

SERIES THEME//

In the lead up to Easter Sunday, this sermon series will spend time learning from Jesus' final words to his disciples in John 13-20. Jesus, ever the creative and engaging teacher, uses several rich images to help his disciples understand who He is, how He gives life, and why He will never leave them. We will explore each of these images. This Lenten series will give us a chance to see what was most important to Jesus as he spent his final night on earth, culminating in Holy Week. Each image He calls us to behold reveals the kind of people He's helping us to become.

SERMON REVIEW

WATER | JOHN 13:1 - 17

SUNDAY, MARCH 5, 2017

SERMON THEME//

Jesus shows us what he wants from us: the humility of a servant.

LEADER// A NOTE ON THIS SERMON AS WE START A NEW SERIES

The heart of this text is Jesus' intentional leadership by example. He washes the disciples' feet to give them an example of how he wants them to lead his church and live together as God's people.

It is a mistake to move from the washing of the disciples' feet into a sermon exclusively focused on being cleansed from sin. D A Carson notes that Jesus' "... 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)."

We want to take away from this message what Jesus communicates we should take away: To walk in the way of Jesus is to be a servant. Jesus' sacrificial death on the Cross cleanses our sins and sets us free to serve. Servanthood is at the heart of discipleship.

The sermons in this series are composed of two primary sections; Behold and Become. This is important to note as you group listens to the sermons at Sunday as they prepare to discuss in Growth Groups.

Behold is the section where we examine the Scriptures, and Become is where we see how we apply the truths of scripture to our lives.

As always, remember to start with prayer.

OPENING UP//

- When you think of Jesus, what is the first story about him that comes to mind?
- People in our culture have really no problem talking about God, or Faith, or even Church, but rarely are people willing to talk about Jesus, or mention his name. Why is that?
- Even a cursory reading of the New Testament reveals that part of the Christian life is to be one of serving - but why do people find it so hard to serve, or make time to serve?



- What are the barriers from keeping Christians being known as “the ones who serve”? How would our world be different if that was a defining notion of how the world views Christ-followers.

DIGGING DEEPER//

As we read this passage, consider this question for later discussion: How does this picture of servanthood differ from how the world understands servanthood?

John 13:1-17 (ESV)

¹Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. ²During supper, when the devil had already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him, ³Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going back to God, ⁴rose from supper. He laid aside his outer garments, and taking a towel, tied it around his waist. ⁵Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was wrapped around him. ⁶He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, “Lord, do you wash my feet?” ⁷Jesus answered him, “What I am doing you do not understand now, but afterward you will understand.” ⁸Peter said to him, “You shall never wash my feet.” Jesus answered him, “If I do not wash you, you have no share with me.” ⁹Simon Peter said to him, “Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!” ¹⁰Jesus said to him, “The one who has bathed does not need to wash, except for his feet,^[a] but is completely clean. And you^[b] are clean, but not every one of you.” ¹¹For he knew who was to betray him; that was why he said, “Not all of you are clean.”

¹²When he had washed their feet and put on his outer garments and resumed his place, he said to them, “Do you understand what I have done to you?” ¹³You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. ¹⁴If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. ¹⁵For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you. ¹⁶Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant^[c] is not greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. ¹⁷If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.

Footnotes:

- a) [John 13:10](#) Some manuscripts omit except for his feet
- b) [John 13:10](#) The Greek words for you in this verse are plural
- c) [John 13:16](#) Or bondservant, or slave (for the contextual rendering of the Greek word *doulos*, see Preface)

Take a moment to pray over this text, asking God to continue to use it to shape us into the people he's calling us to be.

As we read this text, what stood out to you, or where did you see through fresh eyes, or even something you never noticed before?



LEADER//

While a fair amount of processing of the sermon maybe necessary and often helpful, remember that the point of this discussion it to take the word preached and consider how to make it the word lived.

Practically, this means taking the questions, discussion and ideas from "What do you think about this?" to "What does this mean for your life?"

SERMON DISCUSSION VIDEO//

As you watch the sermon discussion video, take note of what you found intriguing, insightful, and challenging as you consider how to take the word preached and make it the word lived.

THE WORD PREACHED//

- Looking over your notes or from what you remember from the sermon - what are the three pivotal and powerful points that John wants us to take away from the foot-washing (see section of sermon called *Behold*)? Rather than just listing the points, describe why each one is important for Christians to know, understand, and embrace.

The Quick Answers:

It's a symbol of Christ's once-for-all atoning death

It's a symbol of our need for continual cleansing ("only his feet" vs. 10/11)

It's a call to radical humility

- Pastor Adam closed this sermon with a section called Behold. He urged us to "become responsive" and "become a relay." More than just reciting the points under those headings, name them and specify how you can specifically become them in your own personal lives.

THE WORD LIVED//

- What vision of leadership do you see in the world? That is, what are the key features of leadership according to the world's standards?
- Likewise, how does Jesus' vision of leadership contrast/compare with the vision of leadership we encounter in our everyday lives?
- For many, servanthood is seen as weakness. That is, does being a servant mean being a doormat?
 - Why is servanthood seen as weakness? Why is that view wrong?
 - Why is service a strength (even if it is)?
- How does our relationship with Jesus not only provide us with an example of how to serve, but the actual power to do it?
- How does and how should this vision be worked out by our group?
- What are there ways we can serve each other?...And our community as a growth group?...And our church as a growth group?



- How are we going to move from talking about it, to putting together a plan of action to actually make the word *preach*, the word *lived*?!

CLOSE IN PRAYER//

LEADER//

As you close in prayer, take some time to receive prayer requests from your group. Try to gather a number of these.

Then take the time to pray over two specific areas (and to facilitate a deeper sense of community, encourage everyone to pray.)

1. First, your time of prayer should be a time of lifting up each other's needs and prayer requests to the Lord.
2. Second, your growth group should pray to thank God for his Word and ask for his help as you seek to be doers of the word and not hearers only.

