

Believe

JOHN

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Community Group Material:

Ask one person to pray at the beginning of your meeting.

Check-in

Check in with each other about how everyone is doing.

Bible Reading: John 13:1-17

Sermon Summary:

What is Jesus really doing as he washes his disciples' feet? Is he merely establishing a literal practice for us to follow? Some think so. But if that's the main takeaway, I believe we've missed something so significant & meaningful. Jesus' foot washing is an acted parable, an intentional action with deep symbolic meaning. Remember, Jesus is only hours away from the cross, from humbly laying down his life for us to be reconciled to God. Foot washing, then, is Jesus preparing his disciples for what they'd soon witness in him on the cross, and it's Jesus preparing his disciples for the life he's calling them to. But what does foot washing mean for you and I?

Discussion:

1. After Jesus washes his disciples' feet he encourages them to follow his example, to do as he has done for them. What is your initial thought that Christians need to do?
2. John describes the foot washing with words that are very familiar to his readers. He says Jesus 'laid aside' his outer clothing. John chooses the same word as he does in Jn. 10:11 & 15:13-14a. How does this word connection help you understand what Jesus is pointing to in the foot washing?
3. How is the foot washing an example of Love in Action?

4. Why does Peter have such a difficult time accepting/receiving Jesus washing his feet?
How does Jesus help him to see beyond his objections?
5. Why is it so important that we do not resist what Jesus would do for us on the cross?
6. How are you learning to sacrificially serve others, and thereby wash their feet?

End with Prayer.

1. Pray for all of our experience of laying down our lives to serve others sacrificially.
2. Pray for one another.