

“Closer Walk” Bible Study

The Gospel Of John Chapter 13

Purpose: To share lives around the Scripture and through the power and presence of the Holy Spirit make happy and unexpected discoveries that change our lives and bring us closer in our walk with Jesus.

Getting us started

1. What were the special meals in your family? Thanksgiving? Sunday lunch? Birthday dinners? Christmas? What was usually served?
2. Who would you nominate for the “Mother Teresa Award” in your family or church for selfless, tireless servanthood?
3. When you are troubled, what symptoms show on your face? In your spirit?
4. What trait do you share with other family members?

Getting us into Scripture

5. What does Jesus *know* that escapes the disciples’ attention (vv. 1, 3, 11)? Hence, what impresses you about Jesus washing their feet?
6. If you were Peter, would you have reacted as he did? Why or why not? While Peter is taking the washing of his feet literally, what do you think Jesus meant by his statement in verse 8? In verse 10?
7. How does Jesus challenge their idea of what it means to be the chief followers of the Messiah (vv. 12-7)? What role reversals do you see here?
8. If you were a movie director, how would you capture the drama of verses 18-22? If you had been sitting at this table, what would you be feeling? Saying?
9. In foretelling his betrayal, what do you sense in Jesus: Resolution? Resignation? Restlessness? What do you sense in his disciples? In Judas?
10. Is Judas to be excused or held responsible when “Satan entered into him” (v.27; also 6:70; 12:4-6; 13:2)?
11. Why did Jesus wait until Judas had gone to share the message in verses 31-35?
12. What does he call the disciples to do (v.34)?
13. What type of person is Peter (vv. 6-9, 36-37)? How do you think he felt after verse 38?

Getting Scripture into us

14. In your spiritual life, who is one person who has demonstrated what it means to “wash feet”? What did he or she do?
15. Specifically, how will you put Jesus’ teaching into practice in at least one relationship this week at home, work or church?
16. If you knew ahead of time that someone would stab you in the back, how would you treat that person? How does Jesus show you what love is all about?
17. Given three years of very intimate fellowship with Jesus, how could Judas turn around and betray him? Have you ever betrayed Jesus? If so, how?
18. How do your good intentions compare to Peter’s?
19. On a scale from 1 to 10, where 1 is low and 10 is high, how does your church rank against the standard of love? How could you increase its score?