



John 13:1-30 Small Group Discussion Questions

- Someone recount where we've been in John the past few weeks; how has the story begun to heat up? What has precipitated the anger that so many feel toward Jesus? Why?
- Have someone read John 13:1-11. Describe the scene; what happens? Why does Jesus choose to wash His disciples' feet? What does it seem like He's trying to teach them?
 - What is the significance of verse 1, do you think? How does it set up the rest of the story?
 - How would you describe Jesus' disposition here?
 - Why do you think Peter responds so strongly in verses 6 and 8? What is the crux of his misunderstanding? How does Jesus respond to him in verses 7 and 8?
 - Verse 10 is a little confusing; what do you think it might mean?
 - Ben says that verse 10 probably indicates the continuing need to go to God for forgiveness post-conversion. Why is it important to continue seeking forgiveness for sin? Hasn't Jesus already taken care of our sin on the cross? Why, then, do we need to continue to ask the Lord for forgiveness?
 - Similarly, how do we balance our assurance of salvation with the ongoing need for repentance and forgiveness in our spiritual journey?

- What does proper confession and repentance look like? What does *improper* confession and repentance look like? How can someone make a consistent practice of confession and repentance in their life?
- In light of Jesus washing His disciples' feet, how can we practically demonstrate humility in our daily interactions, especially in environments where we hold authority or influence?
- Have someone read verses 12-17. How would you summarize Jesus' message here? What is He telling His followers?
 - Ben said that one thing that Jesus teaches by His actions and words in this passage is that no one is above serving. What does serving entail?
 - What are some common false "justifications" about not serving that we may believe?
 - What does service look like in your life right now?
 - If you're not already serving, or if you have a desire to serve more, how can you use your gifts to serve God, His church, and/or His people?
 - Let's take it further. Consider the cultural and societal implications of foot washing in Jesus' time. How can we identify and engage in acts of service today that carry similar weight and significance?
 - Ben said another thing that Jesus teaches here is that no one is below being served. What makes *being* served hard, sometimes?
 - How might pride convince us that we shouldn't be served?
 - When is a time in your life that you needed someone to serve you, and someone stepped up to do so? What was that like?

- Are you likelier to resist serving or being served? Why do you think that is?
- In verses 21-30, Jesus demonstrates that He knows that Judas will betray Him. How does the way He treats Judas during the Last Supper challenge our approach to dealing with those who wrong us?
- How do Jesus's actions and teachings thus far in chapter 13 redefine greatness?
 - How does Jesus' view of greatness and love contrast with the world's definition of greatness?
 - Ben said that the law of the world is that might makes right, that power is the ultimate law. How does Jesus in His love and sacrifice demonstrate what true power is?
 - How does all of this shape how we think about our ambition, goals, and dreams? Given Jesus' sacrificial love, how do we pursue our careers and professional goals? How might our pursuit contrast with that of unbelievers?
 - As Ben said, the cross looms over this entire story. How does the cross ultimately demonstrate the power, service, and love of Jesus?