



LEARNER GUIDE

John 13:1-17

Jesus did not *exchange* the form of God for the form of a servant. He *revealed* the form of God in the form of a servant. Who is Jesus? Jesus is the one who one serves from _____
_____.

John 13:18-30

Who is Jesus? Jesus is the one who serves by _____
He loves us *to the end*, to the fullest extent, to the point of pouring Himself out completely on the cross for a greater purpose.

John 13:31-32

Who is Jesus? Jesus is the one who serves for _____
The cross made perfectly known the heart of Jesus, and for Jesus, to be *known* is to be *glorified*.

John 13:33-35

Who should we be? We should be the ones who serve as _____

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Sometimes people who serve from a position of authority as Jesus set the example to do are called *servant leaders*. What makes someone a servant leader? Do you know someone who is a servant leader and in what specific ways do they display those characteristics?
2. In a world that criticizes those with dirty feet, Jesus calls believers to wash them. Can you think of a time when you or someone you know “washed another person’s feet” by humbly serving her in a way that person didn’t deserve? What impact did the act of service produce?
3. John McArthur said, “It’s not wrong to preach *Christ died for you*. But in the truest sense, in the primary sense, *Christ died for God*.” Do you agree with his statement? Why or why not?
4. Jesus wants us to look like Him in both action and attitude. What attitudes may keep believers from looking like Jesus?
5. Has there ever been a time when the way God’s people loved and served you made a difference in your life or an impact on unbelievers around you?

PERSONAL STUDY



Part One

Read *John 13:1-5*.

Using BlueLetterBible.com, look up the Greek word for *put* in **John 13:2**. Remember you can reference page 2 of your *Resources* appendix for instructions. What is the Strong's number for that word? _____ Give a brief definition of the word from its "Outline of Biblical Usage."

Next, search **Ephesians 6:16** in the search bar. Do a word study on the term *dart* in that verse. What is the Strong's number for the "Root Word (Etymology)" from which the Greek word *dart* comes? _____

The word for *dart* in Ephesians 6:16 comes from the same root word used for *put* in John 13:2. Think about this connection. What does it teach you?

The word translated *put* in John 13:2 literally means "to throw," and it's connected to the fiery darts of the wicked one in Ephesians 6:16. Judas was an unbeliever so he didn't have a shield of faith to ward off Satan's attacks. But that didn't keep Jesus from loving and pursuing him.

Read *John 13:18-30*.

Why do you think Jesus responded to Judas' rejection by honoring him with the tradition of the "first sop" (a bit of choice food dipped in sauce, placed into the mouth of the honored guest)?

Jesus' last act toward Judas was to love, honor and serve him. When Jesus offered Judas the choice morsel of bread, he also assured Judas that He still loved him. Jesus loved Judas *to the end*, yet Judas rejected Him

Read **Isaiah 53:3-5** and *close in prayer*, thanking Jesus for loving a world who rejected him, to the end, even to the point of the cross.

Part Two

Read John 13:1-17.

In John 13:8, Peter was hesitant to allow Jesus the humiliating job of washing his feet. In Peter's culture, the job was so lowly that only non-Jewish slaves were permitted to wash the feet of guests at a meal. In your own words, describe Jesus' answer in that same verse to Peter's refusal to allow Jesus to wash him.

In the Bible physical washing is repeatedly used as an illustration for spiritual cleansing. It's even illustrated in the Old Testament priesthood. When the priest was consecrated for service to God, he was bathed all over (Exodus 29:4), and the experience was never repeated. But each day before he ministered at the temple, he washed his hands and feet in the brazen laver (Exodus 30:18-21). The washing Jesus described to Peter in John 13 follows that pattern.

When a sinner trusts Jesus, he is "bathed all over" and his sins are washed away and forgiven. This washing, which results in salvation, brings about our *union* with Christ, and that is a settled relationship that cannot change. **Read Titus 3:3-7** and describe this washing in your own words.

And while nothing can affect our union with Christ, unconfessed sin can impact our *communion* with Him. When the world pollutes our mind and hearts and hinders our walk with the Lord, we need our feet washed. Read **1 John 1:19** and describe this washing in your own words.

Are there any unconfessed sins that may be affecting your fellowship with the Lord today?

Close in prayer, asking the Lord to "wash your feet" as you confess any sins that may be hindering your walk with Him.

Part Three

Read John 13:31-38.

John 13:31 marks the beginning of Jesus' farewell discourse in which He instructs His disciples about the significance of His upcoming death, resurrection and exaltation, as well as the coming of the Holy Spirit. As part of His final instructions, in **John 13:34** Jesus gives His disciples a new, updated commandment. What is that commandment?

Jesus calls His people to love other believers like He loves them, even *sacrificing themselves to the point of death* for their brothers and sisters in Christ.

In **John 13:37**, what did Peter say he was willing to do for Jesus?

Peter assured Jesus that he would *sacrifice himself to the point of death* for Jesus. However, not only will Peter not lay down his life for Jesus, but in the next 24 hours, he will deny Jesus three times. Do you find Peter and Jesus' discourse ironic in light of the commandment Jesus gave just a couple verses earlier?

I think John included Peter's impulsive comments here because they teach us something about what it takes to love like Jesus. Moreover, they teach us that what it takes, on our own we do not have.

Read **1 John 5:1-2** and use verse 2 to fill in the blank below:

By this we know that we love the children of God: _____

So how can loving God and obeying His commands directly lead to loving others? When we love God and obey His commands, the Spirit bears fruit in our lives. What does Galatians 5:22 list as the very first fruit of the Spirit?

The fruit of the Spirit is *agape* love, Christ-like love. It's not a love that we can produce based on our strength or determination. It's a love that the Holy Spirit grows in us as we seek to obey God.

Close in prayer, acknowledging to God that we can only love because He first loved us.

Heart-to-Heart

Spend some time with Jesus using one of the suggestions below. Remember to reference the RESOURCES pages to help you.

- Revisit a verse or passage that stuck out to you this week. Compare the text in a few different Bible translations or do a word study on a few key words.
- Read a commentary on John 13.
- Journal about what you learned through His Word this week.
- Spend time in prayer, focusing on what the Holy Spirit revealed to you through your study of John 11 and 12.
- Record any questions you still have about the text.

Looking Ahead

Read John 14-17.

Use the space below to record anything that jumps out to you or any questions that come to mind about the text.
