

LG | Leader

[John 13 – Self Guided]

WARM-UP (10 mins)

Prepare your mind to receive God's word. Take a moment to be silent. Pray for your mind to receive God's Word.

ILLUMINATE (40 mins)

Open your Bibles to the primary text.

1. Read through John 13. After we read this text, what do many biblical scholars call this portion of text? It is the beginning of "The _____ Discourse." What are the textual markers for this discourse?

The Farewell Discourse. This discourse begins in chapter 13 and concludes with Jesus' final prayer in chapter 17. The Passion Narrative follows in chs. 18-20.

2. Jesus' washing of the disciple's feet contained a lot of meaning, it was much more than just routine. What was the significance of this event? Give some examples.

- It was a final proof of his love for his disciples
- It put on display Jesus' humility and servanthood
- It demonstrated how to love your enemies (Judas)
- It symbolizes how one must be "washed" of their sins for forgiveness

3. How do we know that the washing of the feet was representative of the washing of sins? How does this text clarify this for us?

Jesus states in verse 8, that "if I do not wash you, you have no share with me." The washing of sins foreshadows Jesus' crucifixion and his blood washing away the sins of man. It is only through Jesus' washing (with his blood) that we might have forgiveness of sins and reconciliation with God.

4. In verse 14, Jesus commands his disciples to wash the feet of others also. What does this mean for us? Is this something that we must participate in today?

Some churches choose to still participate in this direction given by Jesus by literally washing the feet of others. Other churches recognize this verse as being symbolic of one's willingness to serve others in humility.

5. Before Jesus departs, he leaves the disciples with a new commandment. What is the commandment and how does it differ from the Mosaic commandment of "love the Lord with all one's power and to love one's neighbor as oneself"?

Jesus had displayed for the disciples what it meant to love. Jesus' love was a deep, sacrificial love that encompassed loving enemies and even a willingness to lay down one's life. The disciples had

witnessed this unbelievable love before their very eyes through Jesus and it was going to be fully realized as Jesus approached the cross.

6. Where in the Bible can we find one of the best passages of Christ's humility, his example of serving and loving others? What does Philippians 2 look like in our lives today?

Philippians 2 is one of the best examples how Christ loves, specifically verses 3-11.

7. Do you have a hymn or a song that serves as a reminder to love as Christ loved? Please Share.

(Example: Be Thou My Vision)

KIDS EMPHASIS

God created us to be like him. He even sent His son to show us how to love like he does.

Questions to discuss with kids:

1. How do we treat others better than ourselves?
2. How did Jesus consider us better than himself?

PRAY

Use this time to pray specifically. Pray for the needs of others; locally and abroad.