

Goldstone Church

Small Group Questions

John 13:1-17

For Starting

- When you invite people for a meal, what things do you do to make your guests feel welcome and comfortable?
- What was the worst part of your *first* job?
- What is equivalent to the 'washing of feet' in the 1st century that most people would not be willing to do today?
- Share about a time when someone showed you deep compassion and unconditional love, like Jesus?

For Reviewing

- When did this event take place (v.1-2)? What did Jesus know as He was preparing to share with His disciples?
- What contrasting themes are seen in v.3 and v.4?
- What did Jesus do to serve and love His disciples during the meal (v.5)? Who would usually do this?
- Who objected to what Jesus was doing (v.6-9)?
- Why did Jesus insist that He wash Peter's feet (v.10-11)? Why did Peter surrender and allow Jesus to wash his feet?
- How did Jesus explain the meaning of what He had done (v.12-17)? How did He want the disciples to express their love for Him and for one another?

For Discussion

- Did knowing about His divine identity help Jesus to undertake this humble act of service, or did it make it more difficult?
- Where else in the Bible do we see the humility that Jesus showed in this event? e.g. Phil 2:3-8. How is this similar?
- Quote: "*no slave has the right to judge any menial task beneath them after the master has already performed it.*" Do you agree? Why or why not? How does this affect how we live our lives today?
- What needs to change in *our* lives for us to serve and love people the way that Jesus did?
- You could end by reading together John 13:14-15.

John 13:1-17 (NIVUK)

Jesus Washes His Disciples' Feet

¹ It was just before the Passover Festival. Jesus knew that the hour had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.

² The evening meal was in progress, and the devil had already prompted Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus. ³ Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; ⁴ so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. ⁵ After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.

⁶ He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?"

⁷ Jesus replied, "You do not realise now what I am doing, but later you will understand."

⁸ "No," said Peter, "you shall never wash my feet."

Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me."

⁹ "Then, Lord," Simon Peter replied, "not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!"

¹⁰ Jesus answered, "Those who have had a bath need only to wash their feet; their whole body is clean. And you are clean, though not every one of you." ¹¹ For he knew who was going to betray him, and that was why he said not every one was clean.

¹² When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them. ¹³ "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. ¹⁴ **Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet.** ¹⁵ **I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you.** ¹⁶ Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. ¹⁷ Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.