



Northland Christian Church

Group Discussion Guide For the Week of July 3, 2022

Use the questions below as a springboard for discussion. You do not have to answer every question. Pick the ones you think will be helpful. Remember, Ultimately we want God's answers, not man's opinions. Always land where God lands. (ex: Where do we see that in the Bible?) Give grace. Give time for growth. Don't force it. Growth takes time, love, good questions, & patient, humble support.

Connect

- Do you prefer leading or joining in to accomplish projects? Why?
- What do you think makes a successful leader? What character traits do they have? What are the most important character traits you think a leader should have? Why?

Context

What does real leadership look like? How does Jesus view greatness in the Kingdom of God? What does Jesus want us to know about and imitate in serving?

We see this, and more, in a beautiful yet shocking biographical story of Jesus in the Gospel of John chapter 13. Jesus goes beyond - even redefining our definitions of leadership, greatness, and life in the Kingdom of God. Then He not only speaks, but models to all His apprentices what servant leaders look like. All in mere hours before knowing He was going to be unjustly arrested, accused, tried, sentenced, beaten, bruised, mocked, and killed for all humanity. Oh the great love of Jesus! Oh what a Savior we serve! Oh what lessons for us to learn. Let's dive in together.

Engage the Bible

Read the passage and share Observations, Surprises, and Takeaways from:

JOHN 13:1-7, 12-17 NIV

"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 realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand..."

... 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."

Discuss

1. It's clear in verses 1 and 3, that Jesus knows what is coming next in His journey. What is coming next for Jesus? What does this tell you about Jesus?
2. How does this inform how you see Jesus? How does this influence how you see Him serving this way at this time? What impresses you about Jesus washing their feet?
3. Pause for a few seconds and put yourself in the story. What do you notice? What do you "feel"? How do you think you might have responded to Jesus at this moment? What do you think this time would have meant to you?
4. How has Jesus "stooped down into the dirt and dust of life's journey" to meet you?
5. Review verses 12-17 again. How does Jesus challenge the typical idea of leadership? What does this mean is the basis or model of leading in the Kingdom of God?
6. How do you think Jesus might want His disciples and apprentices to follow His example? What might that look like for the disciples in Jesus' time? What might that look like in our time? What might that look like in your family this week? In your workplace this week? In your neighborhood over the next couple of weeks? In your city? In your church?
7. In your journey with Jesus, who has demonstrated the heart of Jesus ("washing feet") for serving? How did they do this? What difference did they make to you? To others?
8. What types of things often hinder us from serving? Or leading through serving?
9. What is the difference between being a contributor to the work of Jesus and a consumer of it? What do you think Jesus is calling us to be? How? Where?

Challenge

10. In what specific relationship, and in what way, can you apply Jesus' teaching this week? How can we as a group encourage each other and hold each other accountable?
11. Who could we bless and serve together as a group over the next week (or so)?

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End Your Group Time in Prayer

