

Study Guide

Tell of a time when you have been on the receiving end of humble service.

What was the situation? How did you respond? Did it change your perspective of the person who served humbly? Why? How?

In your own words, describe what humility means.

Read/Listen to John 13:1-20

Make note of each detail that describes the context of this scene. Who, what, when, where, why is this gathering happening?

How do verses 1-3 communicate why Jesus is the one who could be/should be served?

What is significant about verses 4-5 with regard to Jesus' role in the group and his actions in this account?

Why is Jesus washing his disciples' feet? (vv. 6-11)

How would you describe the response of Peter?

Compare and contrast Peter in John 13 and Nicodemus in John 3. What is similar with them? How does Jesus teach each of them?

Re-read verses 12-17. In your own words, what is the response of Jesus' disciples to be?

Are you and I supposed to literally wash each other's feet? Why?

What is a tangible example of humble service we could practice in our lives?

How would the understanding of roles in a group impact the specifics of humble service?

Does it matter *what* you do, or is Jesus wanting us to consider *how* you do what you do?

This situation was not easy for the disciples to understand. There's an old saying - hindsight is 20/20 - which seems to be true here.

Why do you think it was hard for the disciples to understand Jesus' humble service?

Read Psalm 41:9

Why do you think Jesus quotes this Psalm when he finishes his explanation to his disciples? (vv. 18-20)

The theme of the righteous sufferer comes up in Psalm 41 as well as throughout the Old Testament.

How does this symbolic service give us a picture of Jesus, the righteous one, suffering for his people?

Read Philippians 2:5-11

What does this word of encouragement add to Jesus' example in John 13?

John 13:20 states "*whoever receives the one I send receives me, and whoever receives me receives the one who sent me.*"

What is Jesus saying here?

How is this Good News?

For the world?

For you?

Take some time to think about different situations and groups of people in your life. (This could be your family, your work, at church, your neighborhood, or a group of friends). Consider your role(s) in those situations and groups. Thank God for these situations and groups, then consider the next step below:

Next Step: Write down one way you could humbly serve someone this week.

Next Week's Scripture: Proverbs 3:1-12