



## — The New Normal —

### John 13 Small Group Plan

Serving people ... is it a part of our Christian mandate or not? You might be surprised to know about the heavy line some will draw between physical and spiritual ministry. Some only want to minister to the soul while others only want to do humanitarian work. But the two sides need each other, and Jesus constantly brings them together.

This brings to mind a speech in 1970 by the late E. Stanley Jones. Describing the strictly spiritual and physical sides of ministry he said, one is “a soul without a body,” the second is “a body without a soul. One’s a ghost and the other’s a corpse; you can take your choice. I don’t want either one. I want both.”

Let’s face it, true service is not either-or, it’s both-and.

### **OPEN IT / INTRODUCE IT ...**

- Who is the most humble servant you know? Explain.
- How have they impacted or changed your life??

### **LOOK AT IT / STUDY IT ...**

#### **“JESUS KNEW ... SO HE GOT UP FROM THE MEAL”**

John 13:3-4

- How did what Jesus “knew” lead to what Jesus did?
- Why does true confidence (leadership) always become service?
- What kind of leadership leads to selfishness?
- Describe where you have seen the two kinds of leadership?

## **“UNLESS I WASH YOU”**

**John 13:8**

- Why did Peter initially refuse to be washed?
- What lessons did Jesus want the Twelve to learn from the washing?
- Do you think they learned them? Explain.

## **“YOU ARE NOT ALL CLEAN”**

**John 13:11**

- Was Judas ever really committed to Jesus? Explain your answer.
- How could a person live with Jesus for 3 years and then betray him?
- How would you explain a heart that first betrays and then regrets?

## **“DO YOU UNDERSTAND?”**

**John 13:12**

- Why did Jesus ask the question since he already knew the answer?
- Why is truth that “dawns” on you, always more powerful than truth that is simply handed to you?
- Do you think they understood?
- If Jesus asked you to explain what he was doing, what would you say?

## **“THE FULL EXTENT OF HIS LOVE”**

**John 13:1**

- How can a simple foot washing be called the “full extent of his love?”
- How would you connect the act of washing feet with the act of dying on the cross?

### **USE IT / APPLY IT ...**

- How and when did you begin to “understand” (v. 12) the power of serving people?
- What are the lessons of “washing” for us today?
- What are the signals that “betrayal” could be growing in our hearts?
- Close by asking God to help you see, understand, and get up from your own meal to serve others.