

## **DISCIPLE GROUP FOOT WASHING GUIDE**

### **JESUS WASHES THE DISCIPLES' FEET - JOHN 13:5-8, 12-15**

#### **WHY FOOT WASHING?**

##### **Jesus Models Servitude**

- Jesus performed an act of lowest servitude so that they would follow His example. Rather than argue who was greatest, they needed to understand that greatness lay in humility.
- He calls us to serve one another in love as He did.

##### **Jesus Expresses His Love**

- Jesus made love personal, saying, "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another." (John 13:34)
- Jesus knew the disciples needed to love one another, and their love would serve as a witness to a watching world that they were His disciples. (John 13:35)

##### **Disciples Respond**

- Disciples who wash each other's feet show that they share in the body of Christ.
- Disciples acknowledge their frequent need of cleansing, renew their willingness to let go of pride and worldly power, and offer their lives in humble service and sacrificial love.

### **PREPARING IN ADVANCE FOR FACILITATOR & PARTICIPANTS**

#### **FACILITATOR/HOST/LEADER**

##### **Necessary Supplies** (search "foot washing bowl and pitcher" on the internet for examples)

1. A bowl and pitcher – both fairly large and unbreakable or expendable
2. A towel for each participant

##### **Invitation to the Group** (start communicating a few weeks in advance)

###### **Share:**

1. Please share the date and time, especially if it's a different night than your group meets.
2. Share an invite for everyone to either participate or watch. Remember, not everyone may be comfortable the first time.

3. Anyone participating may choose to wash the feet of any other participant. This mirrors Jesus' expression of love towards the people He did life and ministry alongside.

### Ask:

1. Ask participants to prayerfully consider who they would like to express their love and gratitude towards through foot washing. Men will wash men's feet, and women will wash women's feet, with the exception of spouses.
2. Ask participants come prepared with easily removed footwear and clean feet.
3. Ask those participating to bring a towel.

### Additional Items to Consider

- What is the best room/location for foot washing?
- Would a stool be helpful for the people doing the foot washing?
- Who may not be comfortable and how will you proactively address this?

## FACILITATING THE FOOT WASHING

### LEADER/HOST

**Circle Up:** Place the bowl in the center of the circle. Fill the pitcher with warm water, then set it next to the bowl.

**Remind:** Women will wash women's feet, men will wash men's feet. Also, have a towel ready next to your seat.

**Scripture & Prayer:** Have someone read John 13:1-11 and offer an opening prayer.

**Say:** "If you will be participating tonight, please remove your footwear."

**Wash:** Leader, you may need to lead the way and wash the first person's feet.

1. The foot washer places the bowl under the person's bare feet, pours water on the feet, and then dries them with a towel.
2. As the foot washer pours and dries, expressing what makes them grateful for the other person is an encouraging touch that often adds to the act of service.
3. The next foot washer may then move into place, taking the bowl and pitcher to the person whose feet they wish to wash, with no prescribed order.
4. Important Leader Consideration: Anyone who chooses to participate should have their feet washed. ***The leader will ensure this by washing the feet of anyone who hasn't had their feet washed before the foot washing ends.***

**Scripture & Prayer:** Have someone read John 13:12-17 and close with a prayer.