

DISCUSSION 1

Jesus Loves (vv. 1-3)

1. Verse 1 contrasts verse 2—those whom Jesus loved with the one who hated Jesus. What are some of the contrasting descriptions of Jesus and his love and his foes and their hate? What can we learn from this contrast?
2. The insight given in verse 3 allows the reader to read the rest of the story with confidence, while the people who originally experienced the death of Jesus had great opportunity for despair. Read verse 3 and list some of the truths about Jesus that supported him on his death march. How can these truths similarly help us during trials?

DISCUSSION 2

Jesus Serves (vv. 4-11)

1. What can we learn about Jesus from his posture and clothes in this story?
2. In verses 6-8a, why did Peter initially refuse to have Jesus wash his feet? Was he right or wrong?
3. What did Jesus mean when he answered Peter by saying, “If I do not wash you, you have no share with me.” Discuss the meaning of Jesus’s statement.
4. Peter took Jesus’s teaching literally and asked for a full washing. Jesus affirmed that he was clean (probably spiritually), but there was one who was not: Judas. Even among the closest allies of Jesus on earth, one was faking. What can we learn from this hard truth?

DISCUSSION 3

Jesus Explains (vv. 12-20)

1. Did the disciples need to repent in this story?
2. What ultimate example of humility and service does Jesus refer to in verse 19 that was yet to take place?
3. How can we apply verse 20 today?

FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP QUESTIONS

1. Wash the feet of each family member. Then, discuss what it felt like and what you all thought of it. Ask what it would be like for Jesus to do that to us.
2. Encourage the family to think of Satan—not in a scary way, but as a real foe to our spiritual life. Discuss how to resist the devil in the strength of the Lord.
3. Read vv. 1-10. Then, have someone imitate Peter in this story. Discuss Peter's initial response to Jesus.
4. Ask: how can we—individually and as a family—learn from this story? What are some practical ways we can grow in faith in light of these truths?

APPLICATION

- Meditate on Phil. 1:1-10. Consider how this passage relates to John 13:1-20 story and our lives.
- Consider how you might reflect the servant-heart of Jesus by going out of your way to serve someone else this week. Commit to doing this act of service and share your plan with a friend to help hold yourself accountable.