

2020 Embracing a New Vision
Embracing a New Vision for Relationships- Week #3
Small Group Notes
April 30 and May 3

Main Point: For me to embrace a new vision in my relationships (marriage), I have to be willing to do for others what Jesus did for me.

Introduction:

What has been the most challenging part of your marriage (relationships) during these days?

What has been rewarding for you in your marriage (relationships) during this season?

How has your perspective of your relationships marriage (relationships) changed during this season?

Before we begin our discussion, read John 13:1-17, 34-35.

Discuss:

1. Those with relational vision know their identity, mission, and destiny.

- Read John 13:16. Those with relational vision also know who they are not.
- A false sense of self-importance hinders humble service.

Explain: In washing His disciples' feet, Jesus displayed his unstoppable love for His own, and the washing of His disciples' feet, even the feet of Judas, would not be the most dramatic demonstration of that love. That would come at the cross. With the power to rule the universe, Jesus willingly chose to take on the form and function of a lowly slave, rather than use His power to thwart God's will for His life. He could have destroyed Judas, His betrayer, but He chose to serve him instead. He could have demanded that the disciples serve Him, yet He chose to model humble service for them and for us.

What might have been going through the disciples' minds as their Lord removed his outer clothing and began to wash their feet? How would you have responded?

Why do we sometimes struggle with seeing the sacrifice Jesus made for us? How does Jesus' example teach us about humility? How should that overflow to our marriages?

2. Those with relational vision know who they are ultimately serving.

- Read Matthew 25:31-40, Serving others is gospel reenactment

Explain: One of the most interesting features of this parable is the element of surprise on both sides. Our service to others must not be undertaken with the intention of piling up rewards. That kind of motivation undermines the genuineness of service. Rather, our service is to show the gospel, which demonstrated how Christ didn't come to die for those that deserved it (no one does). The gospel shows us how Jesus died for those that didn't deserve it!

What does it mean that serving others is serving Christ?

What would it look like in your marriage (relationship) to do for your spouse, sister, co-worker what Jesus did for you? How would it look differently today?

What does it look like for us to have the right motives for serving our spouses?

3. Those with relational vision know serving isn't merely a path to greatness, but it is greatness.

- Read John 13:17 and Matthew 20:25-27. Vision redefines greatness.

Explain: Since Jesus loved His disciples and loves us in the same way, we need to do for others what He has done for us. It is when we begin to put others (especially our spouses) before ourselves, then we learn how to reflect Christ in our marriage.

What does it mean that "our relationships say something about your relationship?"

Read John 13:6-10, How can you struggle sometimes receiving love from others?

Read John 13:34-35, How is your marriage demonstrating the love of Christ to others?

Do:

Thinking about the relationships in your life, how can you practically "wash their feet?"

Who is someone who serves you like this? What can you do to thank them this week?

Husbands: we want to encourage you to wash your wife's feet sometime this week both literally and through serving her.

Your marriage may be in a place where it is struggling, if you need help or someone to talk to, please talk with one of our counselors at New Vision.

Family Activity:

Find someone outside of your family that you can serve and "wash their feet" as an entire family. It may be that you take a meal or mow their lawn. Show the love of Christ this week to someone in need.