

**Created for This  
Serve- Session #6  
Small Group Notes**

**Introduction:**

**What are qualities that we say make someone influential? What are qualities that we say make them inspirational? How do the two lists compare? Can someone be influential and not inspirational? Why or why not?**

**How much does someone being humble impact how much they influence your life? What are examples of people that we would say act humbly in our culture today? What characteristics do you see among these people that correlate to them being humble?**

**What are times that you see the impact of choosing to serve self before others? How does our culture sometimes encourage this behavior?**

In this discussion, we are going to see how we are created to serve. In being created to serve, this means that we are willing to follow Jesus' example in John 13 where he took off his outer garment and washed the feet of his disciples. In doing so, he showed great truths about humility and what a true servant is to look like.

**Discuss:**

1. Read John 13:1-5

Explain: Prior to the Feast of the Passover, and in the presence of Judas who was to betray Him, Jesus took on the garb and posture of a slave and washed His disciples' feet. An old proverb says, "Actions speak louder than words," and the Lord's willingness to wash the feet of His disciples, even Judas's, reflects servant leadership at its best. People who are familiar with first-century culture will immediately recognize how socially inappropriate this behavior was. Never in Jewish, Greek, or Roman society would a superior wash the feet of inferiors.

**Does the fact that Jesus washed even Judas' feet have any special impact on the significance of this event for you? Why or why not?**

**What is the relationship between Jesus as He is described in v. 3 and the role He took as a foot-washing slave in v. 4?**

**What might have been going through the disciples' minds as their Lord removed his outer clothing and began to wash their feet? What might such an act have done to the dynamic of the room during a shared meal?**

2. Read John 13:6-11

Explain: Though Peter initially responds with indignation, faith in and love for Jesus leads him to submit to Jesus' humble act. Jesus' statement to Peter in v. 8 ("If I don't wash you, you have no part with Me.") conveys a powerful idea in its immediate context, but also foreshadows the washing believers experience by Jesus' blood poured out on the cross. In both instances, the exalted Messiah King assumes the role of a despised servant for the good of others. While some theorize that Peter's reference to the washing of his hands may be a reference to ritual cleanliness, and "head" as a reference to his perceived need for total cleansing, most scholars see no special significance in Peter's statement. True to his personality, Peter was verbally unrestrained in his enthusiasm.

**How would you describe Peter's response to Jesus' actions? How do you think you would have responded? Why?**

**Why are profound acts of humility frequently admired as much as they are despised?**

**What motivation does Jesus know must lead Peter to have his feet washed (v. 7)?**

**What, if anything, is significant about Peter's request that Jesus wash his hands and head as well?**

3. Read John 13:12-17

Explain: Having completed the act of washing His disciples' feet, Jesus converses with them about the meaning of His actions. Jesus has set for them an example of humble service which must be reflected in their own lives. Therefore, Jesus was far more than an example to the disciples and they needed more than an example. Yet Jesus *certainly was an example* to those disciples and all who would follow Him. They must take Him as **an example** for both attitude and action!

**Consider Jesus' question to His disciples in v. 12. Do you think they understood what He had just done and why? Do you understand?**

**Read Philippians 2:4-11. What excuses might the disciples have made for not wanting to follow Jesus' example? What excuses do we tend to make? What do these excuses reveal about our hearts?**

**Thinking about the relationships in your life, how can you practically "wash their feet?" After this discussion, how does this help you to put your "Yes" on the table to serve?**