



## Week 20

### Discussion Questions

**Text:** John 13:1-20

**Icebreaker:** Would you rather go backpacking for a week barefoot or wear tennis shoes without socks for a month?

1. Read this week's passage. What stands out from the text or sermon?
2. Recap: What does the feast of Passover celebrate and remember? What is the story of the Passover from Exodus? (Exodus 12)

The Passover celebrates the deliverance of Israel from slavery and oppression under Egypt. The tenth of ten plagues God sent on Egypt, as he tried to get Pharaoh to release the Jews from bondage, was the death of the firstborn of every household that did not mark their doorpost with blood from a pure sacrificed lamb.

3. Discuss the significance of Jesus washing the feet of the disciples at Passover and the connection between this act and the original Passover.  
The act of sacrifice symbolized the cleansing of sin. All those in Egypt who sacrificed a lamb and spread its blood over their doorposts were acknowledging their belief in God and submitting to his power and reign as well as recognizing of His coming salvation. Similarly, Jesus washing of the feet symbolizes the cleansing of their sin and points to His own power and reign to do so Himself. Jesus is the lamb who will be slain to cleanse the sins of the world.

Note: Jesus washing the feet of the disciples might lose its significance without its historical context. "[Foot-washing] is an act that only slaves performed. When the master of a wealthy household returned from a journey or, at times, a day of labor, a slave would wash his feet. People wore open-toed sandals in the first century, which would have made this an unpleasant task.<sup>1</sup>

4. Jesus' washing the disciples is a radical reorientation of their status roles. This act would have been viewed as humiliating or even shameful. While foot-washing is foreign to us today, can you brainstorm together what might be the equivalent act if Jesus were to demonstrate this humility today?

Good ideas might include things that would humble you to do for someone else or what would humble you if someone else did that thing for you. Similarly, imagine someone in a lofty or high position (at work, in society, etc.) and what it would mean for them to be humble enough to serve someone below them in status?

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<sup>1</sup> Barry, J. D., Mangum, D., Brown, D. R., Heiser, M. S., Custis, M., Ritzema, E., Whitehead, M. M., Grigoni, M. R., & Bomar, D. (2012, 2016). *Faithlife Study Bible* (Jn 13:5). Lexham Press.

5. **Read Philippians 2:1-11.** Jesus models what it means to serve and then calls us into that service with him. What role does service play in your life of faith?
6. Calvary's Mission is that together we would be "Building Christ centered communities of people fully devoted to loving God and loving others." We demonstrate our love for both God and others by serving them as Christ served and loved us. What does it look like for us individually and as a community to cultivate a **habit** of servant-heartedness?  
Like any habit we hope to develop, we must be intentional. Make a plan, find accountability, and be consistent. Servant-heartedness requires sacrifice. You will have to give up time and resources in order to prioritize serving others.
7. What significance is there in Jesus washing all the disciples' feet, including Judas, and in what way should that shape our own service?  
Following Jesus means serving not only those who love us, but our enemies as well. Part of the sacrifice and humility of our service means serving those who might not deserve it according to the world. Jesus sacrificed himself, even unto death, for His followers and His enemies. We are called to do the same. \*\*Follow-up: Who is the Judas in your life that you could humbly serve?
8. If your group has not done so in this season already, discuss what opportunities there are for you to serve together as a group this semester.