



DEEPER

UPSTATE GROUP LEADER GUIDE

WEEK 3 - *JOHN 13:1-20, 31-35*

LEADER NOTES

Be sure to sign up for the mandatory group leader training in January by clicking this [link](#).

As Upstate Church goes deeper over the next two years, a connection to Christ and a commitment to His mission will need to be accompanied by a healthy and biblical church community. In other words, the Deeper Initiative is focused on producing a spiritually mature and healthy church. This is important because as we reach new people we want to strive to continually become the kind of Christian community that the Bible describes. We want to be a Christian community that is marked by a radical commitment to loving and serving one another. This sounds great in theory, but we must be willing to be the church who does this in practice. This radical community starts in groups. This radical community starts with you as a leader. This radical community starts with the people in your group loving and serving one another. Groups are more important in our church than ever before as we strive to achieve biblical Christian community!



FIRST BAPTIST SIMPSONVILLE
UPSTATE CHURCH

COMMUNITY

OPEN THE GROUP BY CARING FOR ONE ANOTHER AND ALLOWING A MOMENT FOR EVERYONE TO HAVE A PLACE TO BELONG.

START THE GROUP BY TAKING PRAYER REQUESTS, FINDING OUT ABOUT PEOPLE'S WEEK, AND PRAYING FOR ONE ANOTHER.

OPENING QUESTIONS:

- *STUDIES SHOW THAT THE AVERAGE CHRISTIAN CHURCH ATTENDER GOES TO CHURCH 1.8 TIMES PER MONTH. EVEN MORE PEOPLE JUST ATTEND ON SUNDAY MORNING AND HAVE NO OTHER INVOLVEMENT OUTSIDE OF THAT. DO YOU THINK THIS IS AN ACCEPTABLE COMMITMENT LEVEL FOR THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY?*
- *WHAT IS THE BEST EXAMPLE OF CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY THAT YOU HAVE EVER SEEN? HAS THERE BEEN A TIME IN YOUR LIFE WHERE THAT CHURCH HELD YOU UP WHEN YOU WERE IN TOUGH TIMES?*

SCRIPTURE

TAKE THIS TIME TO STUDY THE BIBLE TOGETHER. REMEMBER, THE GOAL IS NOT JUST TO CONVEY INFORMATION, BUT TO HELP PEOPLE IN YOUR GROUP LEARN TO READ THE BIBLE FOR THEMSELVES.

THE POINT

TRUE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY IS DEFINED BY RADICAL COMMITMENT TO SERVE AND LOVE THE PEOPLE OF GOD.

John 13:1-20, 31-35

13 "Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. 2 During supper, when the devil had already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him, 3 Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going back to God, 4 rose from supper. He laid aside his outer garments, and taking a towel, tied it around his waist. 5 Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was wrapped around him. 6 He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, 'Lord, do you wash my feet?' 7 Jesus answered him, 'What I am doing you do not understand now, but afterward you will understand.' 8 Peter said to him, 'You shall never wash my feet.' Jesus answered him, 'If I do not wash you, you have no share with me.'

9 Simon Peter said to him, 'Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!' 10 Jesus said to him, 'The one who has bathed does not need to wash, except for his feet, but is completely clean. And you are clean, but not every one of you.' 11 For he knew who was to betray him; that was why he said, 'Not all of you are clean.' 12 When he had washed their feet and put on his outer garments and resumed his place, he said to them, 'Do you understand what I have done to you? 13 You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. 14 If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. 15 For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you. 16 Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. 17 If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them. 18 I am not speaking of all of you; I know whom I have chosen. But the Scripture will be fulfilled, 'He who ate my bread has lifted his heel against me.' 19 I am telling you this now, before it takes place, that when it does take place you may believe that I am he. 20 Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever receives the one I send receives me, and whoever receives me receives the one who sent me."

The Holy Bible: English Standard Version (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016), Jn 13:1–20.

31 "When he had gone out, Jesus said, 'Now is the Son of Man glorified, and God is glorified in him. 32 If God is glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself, and glorify him at once. 33 Little children, yet a little while I am with you. You will seek me, and just as I said to the Jews, so now I also say to you, 'Where I am going you cannot come.' 34 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. 35 By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

The Holy Bible: English Standard Version (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016), Jn 13:13–35.

STUDY NOTES

The focus for the group time this week should be on the level of service and love that Christ calls us to in the body of Christ. Jesus offers a radical example of what Christian community should look like.

1. True Christian community is defined by humble service to one another even if it's uncomfortable or awkward.

Can you imagine anything more awkward than washing someone's feet? This is not like washing a 21st-century, western world person's feet either. In the first century, people had super nasty feet from walking along roads and backwoods that were filled with dirt, trash, and even excrement. No matter, the king of the universe stooped low to love His people even when it was not a pretty job.

2. True Christian community is guided by a new commandment: Love one another as Christ has loved us.

We are not to love one another by any worldly standard. Instead, we are called to be committed to one another in the same way Christ was committed to us. This is a commitment level that is higher than anything we can imagine.

For more resources on this passage click the resources link [HERE](#).

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

- *In washing the disciple's feet Christ took upon himself the role of the lowliest slave. What does Christ's example tell us about how we should live our lives in service to others?*
- *Have there ever been times you felt like you were above certain jobs in the church? How does Christ push us toward humility?*
- *Judas was among the disciples who had their feet washed by Christ. What does this show us about Christ's love and commitment?*
- *How does loving one another as Christ loves us change the way we approach the church and fellow believers?*
- *How can we love one another in this group in the way Christ displays here?*

COMMISSION

AS YOU WRAP UP YOUR GROUP, IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT EVERYONE KNOWS WE GO INTO THE WORLD ON MISSION FOR JESUS. USE THIS TIME TO FOCUS EVERYONE TO LIVE ON MISSION AS YOU LEAVE.

- **WHY IS IT IMPORTANT FOR THE CHURCH TO LOVE EACH OTHER WELL IF THE MISSION IS GOING TO GO FORWARD?**
- **WHO IN YOUR LIFE NEEDS TO KNOW JESUS?**