



Growth Group Questions
July 26, 2026
“Jesus Gives an Object Lesson”

SCRIPTURE

John 13:1-17

¹It was just before the Passover Festival. Jesus knew that the hour had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.

²The evening meal was in progress, and the devil had already prompted Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus. ³Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; ⁴so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. ⁵After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples’ feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.

⁶He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, “Lord, are you going to wash my feet?” ⁷Jesus replied, “You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand.” ⁸“No,” said Peter, “you shall never wash my feet.” Jesus answered, “Unless I wash you, you have no part with me.” ⁹“Then, Lord,” Simon Peter replied, “not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!” ¹⁰Jesus answered, “Those who have had a bath need only to wash their feet; their whole body is clean. And you are clean, though not every one of you.” ¹¹For he knew who was going to betray him, and that was why he said not every one was clean.

¹²When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. “Do you understand what I have done for you?” he asked them. ¹³“You call me ‘Teacher’ and ‘Lord,’ and rightly so, for that is what I am. ¹⁴Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another’s feet. ¹⁵I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. ¹⁶Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. ¹⁷Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.

John 10:11

¹¹ “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

1 John 3:16-18

¹⁶ This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. ¹⁷ If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? ¹⁸ Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.

Ephesians 5:1-2

¹ Follow God’s example, therefore, as dearly loved children ² and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

QUESTIONS

1. The title of this week’s sermon is “Jesus Gives an Object Lesson.” Why do you think Jesus chose to physically wash the feet of His disciples instead of telling a parable or simply teaching them a verbal lesson about serving others?
2. Imagine yourself to be one of the disciples at the table with Jesus when He took off his robe, picked up a towel and began to wash the feet of those at the table. How might you have told this story to someone?
3. Reread John 13:1-17. What stands out to you most in this passage? Why?
4. What does it mean to you to be a “towel taker”?
5. What kind of things can stop you from taking off your robe of comfort and prestige and taking up a towel to serve others?
6. How does Jesus’ act of washing His disciples’ feet influence your approach to serving others?
7. In John 13:17, Jesus says, “Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.” How does serving others result in blessings to us?
8. What are some practical “foot washing” tasks or acts of service we can do regardless of our age or stage of life?
9. Pastor Paul’s first sermon question asks if we spend more time “talking” about love and mercy or “living out” love and mercy. What does it look like to “live out” love and mercy?

PASTOR PAUL'S SERMON QUESTIONS

1. Do you spend more time “talking” about love and mercy or “living out” love and mercy?
2. Where is Jesus calling you to be a “towel taker” this week?