

2005 WCCCC Bible Study Material-Leader's Guide

Theme

"Wash One Another's Feet" (John 13:14)

Passages

Day 1: (Matthew 20:20-28; 1 Peter 5:5-6)

Day 2: (John 13:1-17)

Day 3: (Philippians 2:1-11)

Suggested Bible study format:

At the beginning of the Bible study

- 1) day 1 only: Brief introductions
- 2) Settle down your Bible study group
- 3) Open in prayer

In the body of the Bible study

- 1) Read one Bible study passage
- 2) Ask questions and facilitate discussion for that passage
- 3) Move on to next Bible study passage

At the end of the Bible study

- 1) Facilitate concluding discussion
- 2) Close in prayer
- 3) day 3 only: Allow time to share contact info

Pointers for Bible study leaders:

The question commentary is provided only as a secondary reference.

- 1) Try to understand the passage through your own personal study first.
- 2) Go only to the question commentary to add to or aid your understanding of the questions.
- 3) Use reliable outside references whenever needed, or better, whenever possible to aid your understanding of a passage.

Think and go over which questions you will use during the Bible study.

- 1) There are more questions than you will probably use. You will probably have between 40 to 50 minutes of Bible study time so prioritize the questions.
- 2) Keep in mind that there are 3 kinds of questions in this Bible study. Observation questions must be answered directly from the passage and take little time to answer. Interpretation questions must be answered with conclusions drawn from different parts of the passage and perhaps outside passages. Application questions should be answered with connections realized between the passage and our lives.
- 3) Become familiar with the passages and the questions to know which questions you want to emphasize and how and when to transition to another question.

Be the leader in your group to direct the discussion.

- 1) In leading a Bible study your priorities are, first, to point out the intended emphasis of the passage; and second, to go with the flow of the discussion. Many times the questions or points you've gained deep insight into may not promote the flow of the discussion.
- 2) Be sure to lead your group to discuss and understand the emphasis, major points, and application of the Bible study found in the objectives for each day.
- 3) Think of transitions to direct and move the group to learn and discover the intended objectives for each day.

Be the leader in your group to pace the discussion.

- 1) Start on time and pace the discussion and questions to finish each study on time.
- 2) Don't linger too long on any one question. The leaders guide contains time quotas for the questions to help you pace your Bible study group to cover the whole study.
- 3) If the discussion is going off track or is taking too long, bring the discussion back to topic by saying something to summarize or complete the thought and move on to the next question. If someone is dominating the discussion, jump in when he pauses and compliment and build on his insight in a genuine manner and then ask everyone else on their thoughts and opinions.

Be the facilitator in your group to promote discussion.

- 1) Don't ever answer your question first. In fact, try not to answer your question at all. Silence is ok and even good as long as people are reading or thinking.
- 2) If you are not sure if people are thinking, ask. Often people may need the question repeated, rephrased, or modified to get a response.
- 3) Don't monopolize the discussion by responding or adding on to everybody's comments or answers. Instead, wait for people to think and openly encourage people to respond to and question *each other*. Try also to use non-verbal cues such as nodding or looking at someone to get a response.
- 4) Encourage people who answer by complimenting and building on their insight occasionally. If someone answers wrong, don't tell them directly they are wrong, instead ask for other people's thoughts and opinions.
- 5) Once your group has a discussion going, just monitor the discussion to watch for questionable interpretations, keep track of time, and think of transitions to direct the discussion to the next question.

And most importantly, pray and prepare well for your Bible study.

Discovering insights and convictions from the Bible passages on your own is the first step to helping your Bible study group discover insights and convictions for themselves. It cannot be overemphasized how much your ability to promote the discussion for involvement, direct the discussion toward truth, and pace the discussion toward conviction are affected directly by the amount of prayer and preparation you put in.

Tuesday (Day 1) Bible Study

Day 1 –What is Humility? Why should I be humble?

(Reading: 2-3 min) Matthew 20:20-28

²⁰Then the mother of Zebedee's sons came to Jesus with her sons and, kneeling down, asked a favor of him.

²¹"What is it you want?" he asked.

She said, "Grant that one of these two sons of mine may sit at your right and the other at your left in your kingdom."

²²"You don't know what you are asking," Jesus said to them. "Can you drink the cup I am going to drink?"

"We can," they answered.

²³Jesus said to them, "You will indeed drink from my cup, but to sit at my right or left is not for me to grant. These places belong to those for whom they have been prepared by my Father."

²⁴When the ten heard about this, they were indignant with the two brothers. ²⁵Jesus called them together and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. ²⁶Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, ²⁷and whoever wants to be first must be your slave – ²⁸just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

1 Peter 5:5-6

⁵All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because,

"God opposes the proud

but gives grace to the humble." (Proverbs 3:34)

⁶Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time.

Questions

1. How would you define "humility" in your own word? (3-4 min)

- a. Humility is a personal quality in which an individual shows dependence on God and respect for other persons.

More thoughts on humility...

- 1) a recognition of one's sinfulness before a holy God (Isaiah 6:5)
- 2) obedience to God (Deut. 8: 2)
- 3) submission to God (2 Kings 22:19)

- b. According to the Merriam-Webster Dictionary, Humility is the quality or state of being humble.

Definition of Humble:

Etymology: Middle English, from Old French, from Latin *humilis* low, humble, from *humus* earth; akin to Greek *chth* On earth, *chamai* on the ground

1 : not proud or haughty : not arrogant or assertive

2 : reflecting, expressing, or offered in a spirit of deference or submission

2. In Matthew 20:21, the mother of Zebedee's sons asks Jesus to "Grant that one of these two sons of mine may sit at your right and the other at your left in your kingdom." Why does the mother ask it? (2-3 min)

She is concerned about her sons' place in heaven. She wants them to be close to Jesus in God's kingdom. Sitting at the right and left of the head of a table are places of honor and position and importance.

Perhaps she asked out of pride for her sons. Perhaps she thought her sons deserved a special place in God's kingdom since they were close to Jesus during his time on earth and they had been among the first to be chosen as disciples.

3. Jesus asks James and John whether they can “drink the cup” he is going to drink. What does that mean? What is the cup? (4 min)

To drink the cup is to undergo or experience suffering. The cup is the crucifixion of Christ.

First, To suffer for Christ is *to drink of a cup*, *Secondly*, It is to drink of the same cup that Christ drank of, and to be baptized with the same baptism that he was baptized with. Christ is beforehand with us in suffering, and in that as in other things left us an example. *Thirdly*, It is good for us to be often putting it to ourselves, whether we are able to drink of this cup, and to sacrifice ourselves and suffer like Jesus. We must expect suffering, and not look upon it as a hard thing to suffer well and as becomes us. Are we able to suffer cheerfully, and in the worst of times still to hold fast our integrity?

Cross References to put in Leader's Guide:

Jesus at Gethsemane-Matthew 26:29, 42

Isaiah 51:17 describes the cup as “the cup of his wrath”. I take from this verse and Matthew 20:22 that the cup Jesus was going to drink was the cup of God's wrath for the sins of Mankind. The Acts and Revelations verses show that James and John did in fact suffer as Christ suffered.

Isaiah 51:17

Awake, awake! Rise up, O Jerusalem, you who have drunk from the hand of the LORD the cup of his wrath, you who have drained to its dregs the goblet that makes men stagger.

Acts 12:2

He (King Herod) had James, the brother of John, put to death with the sword.

Revelations 1:9

I, John, your brother and companion in the suffering and kingdom and patient endurance that are ours in Jesus, was on the island of Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus.

4. In verses 26-28, how does Jesus say we are to behave towards one another? Why are we to do so? How is this different from the world's priority system described in verse 25? (5-10 min)

1st question.

Jesus says that we are to serve, just like the Son of Man. Jesus is our example of serving. If we are to be like Him, we have to do what He did.

2nd question.

Jesus says if you want to be a great person in the kingdom, you have to be a servant. In the world, the higher the position you are in, the better you are. The way that the world works isn't the way the kingdom works.

Your position in the kingdom doesn't matter at all.

In the church, there are many positions. Just because someone serves a higher position, they will not be having a higher position in heaven.

--1 Corinthians 12:12-26 We're the same body; We're all servants. Even though there are positions that may be more respectful in the church, we're all equal servants.

The way to become humble is to serve. As you serve more, you will learn to become more humble.

5. After reading Matthew 20:20-28, what can you conclude that greatness isn't? (5 min)

- a. Serving in the kingdom is not the way of serving in the world.
- b. Not about having a high position.
- c. Not exercising authority; not being a boss over somebody.

6. According to 1 Peter 5:5-6, to whom do we need to show humility? Why do we need to be humble? What are the blessings (promises) that come as a result of being humble? (2 min)

1st question

To God. To each other.

2nd question

It is God's command, as shown in the Bible in these two passages. Humility is a recognition of our place relative to our Creator.

Other reasons from 1 Peter are because God opposes the proud, gives grace to the humble, and lifts up the humble in due time.

(Leaders Guide) Micah 6:8

He has showed you, O man, what is good.

And what does the Lord require of you?

To act justly and to love mercy

and to walk humbly with your God.

3rd question

God gives grace to the humble. He lifts up the humble.

7. Does God lift us up as soon as we humble ourselves? If not, why not? (5 min)

- He lifts us up in His time.... "he may lift you up in due time."

- We are encouraged to be faithful and trusting towards God, not demanding or legalistic.

Leader's guide application question:

Anyone had the experience of allowing God to work in His time?

8. Have you ever been indignant (angry) toward a proud person before? If so, would Jesus' words apply to you? (at least 5 min)

Allow conferees to share their experiences.

Leader's guide:

Dictionary definition of indignant: *adj* : angered at something unjust or wrong

(optional question) What are some things that keep you from living a humble life?

- Desire to move up the corporate ladder
- Self-righteousness; selfishness
- (It's sometimes easier to be humble inside the church than to be humble outside the church.)

- Pride
- Pressures or temptations from society

Wednesday (Day 2) Bible Study

Day 2 – Wash One Another’s Feet

John 13:1-17

It was just before the Passover Feast. Jesus knew that the time had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he now showed them the full extent of his love.

²The evening meal was being served, and the devil had already prompted Judas Iscariot, son of Simon, 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, “A person who has had a bath needs only to wash his feet; his 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. ¹⁴**Now 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. ¹⁶I tell you the truth, 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.”

Questions

- 1. In verse 3, what does it mean that Jesus had come from God and that he was returning to God? (3 minutes)**

Jesus is the Son of God. He was born of the Holy Spirit. He knew that he was going to die for our sins and then return to sit at God the Father’s right hand.

The fact that He’s the Son of God and lowers himself to do a servant’s job (washing feet) shows real humility.

- 2. In verse 8, why did Peter say that Jesus should never wash Peter’s feet? What are some of the ways that we refuse to let God or people serve us? Why? (7 minutes)**

Answer 1:

Peter knew that Jesus was his Lord. Perhaps Peter did not think it proper that his Lord should demean himself by acting like a menial servant.

Answer 2:

A possible answer: Pride, we don’t want to reveal our vulnerabilities and weaknesses. Have conferees share.

Answer 3:

Bible Study group can share their thoughts for this question.

3. Why would Peter have no part with Jesus if he didn't let Jesus wash his feet? (5 minutes)

Being in a relationship with Jesus is also about receiving; if Peter can't receive a foot-washing, how will he be able to receive Jesus' death for him? Receiving Jesus' sacrifice on the cross for our sins is actually an act of humility. Also, Jesus washing Peter's feet is a symbol of spiritual cleansing. Peter needed this cleansing. The external washing was a picture of cleansing from sin, which Christians also need.

(Only for leader's guide) In verses 9-10, Peter asks Jesus to wash all of him; but Jesus says that Peter has already had a bath, and only needs to have his feet washed. What does this mean?

(spiritual) Peter was already a disciple and he was already baptized. He had accepted Jesus as the Christ (Messiah) and the Son of God. But he didn't know how to serve others. Serving others is the message behind the feet washing.

(literal) In the old times, a man would bath himself before going to a feast. When he arrived, he only needed to wash his feet to be entirely clean again.

4. What is the significance of Jesus' statement in verse 16 when he says "no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him"? (5 minutes)

Jesus points out that the master is above the servant and that the one who sent the messenger is above the one who carries the message. This is true of the relationship of Jesus and his Father: Jesus is a servant of God the Father and he is a messenger from God the Father. This is also true of the relationship between Jesus and the disciples: Jesus is their Lord and Teacher. Yet Jesus lowered himself to serve the disciples out of his love for them, even though in truth he is above them. He teaches the disciples to do the same for each other.

This goes back to Peter's questions about why would Jesus lower himself to wash their feet since this is such a low and demeaning task given that he is their Lord and Teacher.

If Jesus, he who is above us in every way, would lower himself to serve his children, then indeed we the children should learn to serve each other. We are all God's children, both good and bad, and Jesus our Teacher and Lord tells us so. And He teaches us to serve each other in humility and out of love.

5. What was the purpose Jesus had in washing the disciples' feet and commanding them to do so for each other? What does Jesus' command to "wash one another's feet" mean? (5 minutes)

Christ wanted to set an example for his disciples that they could understand. The feet washing was something real and physical that disciples could watch and see and feel.

To wash each other's feet – meaning, serve one another with humility.

6. In what ways is Jesus' action a demonstration of true humility? (5 minutes)

When Jesus washed his disciple's feet, he didn't make an act or speech, but quietly washed. (he doesn't need to be seen – hidden service)

Selfless service: Jesus knew Judas would betray him, but he still washed Judas' feet. He loved his enemy. Judas feet would not be clean even if it's washed, but he still washed them. Jesus never did anything for himself and never failed to do something which needs to be done. That's the breadth of love of the cross.

The master humbling himself to be a servant is the highest model of service since washing someone's feet is considered a servant's job. For Jesus (the Lord) to wash his disciple's feet, he had to lower himself out of love for his disciples.

It doesn't matter how humble you are if there's no love behind it. True humility also involves love.

7. Can you think of an experience in which you had a hard time letting other people serve you? Can you think of an experience in which you had difficulty humbling yourself to serve another person? (7 minutes)

8. Think of a humble service you can perform today for one of your conferees; write it down. Then share the experience in tomorrow's bible study.

Leader's Guide: provide examples of services that could be performed.

Examples:

Ask a brother/sister if they have a prayer request and then pray for them.

Help a conferee who is sick. (bring them food, medicine).

Serve the brothers/sisters at your table during mealtime.

Share an umbrella with someone.

Share your bible, pencil/pen, paper with someone during workshop.

Optional Leader's Guide question:(Personal): Share the blessings you have received from serving others or receiving from others' serving. Be specific (ST)

Thursday (Day 3) Bible Study

Day 3 – Imitating Christ's Humility

Philippians 2:1-11

¹If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, ²then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose. ³Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. ⁴Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.

⁵Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus:

⁶Who, being in very nature^[a] God,
did not consider equality with God something to be grasped,

⁷but made himself nothing,
taking the very nature^[b] of a servant,
being made in human likeness.

⁸And being found in appearance as a man,
he humbled himself
and became obedient to death—
even death on a cross!

⁹Therefore God exalted him to the highest place
and gave him the name that is above every name,

¹⁰that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

¹¹and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

1. Please share about your experience of serving one of your fellow conferees during Day 2. (5 min)

Allow bible study group to share their experiences.

2. What should be our attitude as people who are united with Christ and in fellowship with the Spirit? (6 min)

- a. be like-minded, being one in spirit and purpose.
Stand together as one man (one body) for the faith of the gospel (Philippians 1:27). Stand together in fellowship with all true believers.
- b. consider others better than ourselves.
Give credit to others instead of taking it for ourselves. Give someone else the better seat at the table, the bigger piece of cake.
- c. look to the interests of others (as well as our own interest).
Take care of those around you as well as taking care of yourself. Be a good neighbor, a good Samaritan.
- d. have the attitude of Christ (humble, servanthood).
Our attitude should be that of humility. Like Christ, we should empty ourselves and be obedient to God.
We are all servants of God. And Christ teaches us to serve each other.

3. In verses 3 to 6, what attitudes should we get rid off? What attitude(s) in your life do you need to change? (6 min)

- a. selfish ambition (v3).
Don't be driven by your desires, ambitions. Don't just think of your own self.
- b. vain conceit (v3).
Do not praise yourself. Give praise to God. Everything we have and accomplish comes from God, not from our own effort and skill.
- c. only looking after our own interests (v4).
Being focused on our own needs and desires. Forgetting about the needs of others.
- d. grasping to be equal with God (v6).
Lifting up ourselves to God's level. We are not God. We are God's creation, his children, his servants.

4. Jesus "made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, ..." Describe a person that you know that has the nature of a servant. (5 min)

-Servanthood requires that we empty ourselves for others. In order to be a servant, we must consider others better than ourselves.

[BSL guide: background on how did people serve in Jesus' time? \(both as household servants and as God's servants\)](#)

5. What was the purpose of Jesus "taking the very nature of a servant" and being "obedient to death – even death on a cross"? (5 min)

- a. Jesus' ministry, exemplified in the Last Supper foot-washing, teaches us to humble ourselves before God the Father and to humble ourselves before each other in the manner of being a servant to each other. Jesus teaches us this new way to behave towards each other: serving each other, considering others better than ourselves, (v4) looking to the interests of others (v4).
- b. Jesus' death on the cross was God's Plan for redemption for mankind. God the Father loves us so much that he sent his only son to die for us (John 3:16). Jesus shows his love for God the Father and for us by being obedient to the Father and carrying out his role in this plan of redemption.

- 6. How does Christ's example of humility and obedience speak to your life circumstances? With whom can you be more humble and what steps can you take to do that? (7 min)**

Allow conferees to share their personal thoughts. Some ideas of people we can be more humble with: family, friends, co-workers, church brothers and sisters...

- 7. (Three days wrap-up question): What are practical ways we can serve others? How is God calling you to serve in your generation? (7 min)**