

## 2005 WCCC 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

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

<sup>21</sup>"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."

<sup>22</sup>"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.

<sup>23</sup>Jesus 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."

<sup>24</sup>When the ten heard about this, they were indignant with the two brothers. <sup>25</sup>Jesus 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. <sup>26</sup>Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, <sup>27</sup>and whoever wants to be first must be your slave – <sup>28</sup>just 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

<sup>5</sup>All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because,

"God opposes the proud

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

<sup>6</sup>Humble 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)
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)  
  
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)
3. 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)
4. After reading Matthew 20:20-28, what can you conclude that greatness isn't? (5 min)
5. 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)
6. Does God lift us up as soon as we humble ourselves? If not, why not? (5 min)
7. Have you ever been indignant (angry) toward a proud person before? If so, would Jesus' words apply to you? (at least 5 min)

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

## 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.

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

<sup>6</sup>He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, “Lord, are you going to wash my feet?”

<sup>7</sup>Jesus replied, “You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand.”

<sup>8</sup>“No,” said Peter, “you shall never wash my feet.”

Jesus answered, “Unless I wash you, you have no part with me.”

<sup>9</sup>“Then, Lord,” Simon Peter replied, “not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!”

<sup>10</sup>Jesus 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.” <sup>11</sup>For he knew who was going to betray him, and that was why he said not every one was clean.

<sup>12</sup>When 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. <sup>13</sup>“You call me ‘Teacher’ and ‘Lord’, and rightly so, for that is what I am. <sup>14</sup>**Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another’s feet.** <sup>15</sup>I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. <sup>16</sup>I tell you the truth, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. <sup>17</sup>Now 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)
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)
3. Why would Peter have no part with Jesus if he didn’t let Jesus wash his feet? (5 minutes)
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)
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)
6. In what ways is Jesus’ action a demonstration of true humility? (5 minutes)
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 fellow conferees; write it down. Then share the experience in tomorrow’s bible study.

## Thursday (Day 3) Bible Study

### Day 3 – Imitating Christ’s Humility

Philippians 2:1-11

<sup>1</sup>If 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, <sup>2</sup>then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose. <sup>3</sup>Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. <sup>4</sup>Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.

<sup>5</sup>Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus:

<sup>6</sup>Who, being in very nature <sup>a</sup> God,  
did not consider equality with God something to be grasped,  
<sup>7</sup>but made himself nothing,  
taking the very nature <sup>b</sup> of a servant,  
being made in human likeness.

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

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

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

<sup>11</sup>and 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)**
- 2. What should be our attitude as people who are united with Christ and in fellowship with the Spirit? (6 min)**
- 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)**
- 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)**
- 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)**
- 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)**
- 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)**