



## SDG Discussion Guide

John 13:1-17

February 3, 2019

For Starters:

What were the special meals in your family? Sunday lunch? Birthday lunches or dinners? Thanksgiving? Christmas? What was usually served?

Who would you nominate for the “Mother Theresa” award in your family or church for selfless, tireless servanthood?

When it comes to housework, what is the *last* job you would pick?

Guideline: The following is meant to provide an approach for further interaction with the respective sermon text and surrounding passage. Feel free to forward to your small group members ahead of the respective Sunday. Group members may also find this write up in print on that Sunday.

First, as you can, read aloud the selected passage in your group. If you have time, read it aloud a second time - from a different Bible translation.

Before you begin your discussion, pray and ask God to speak to your group. Notice, what may God be highlighting for your discussion and learning?

Now that you have read the text together and prayed, what points and questions arise? Spend plenty of time in your group to address these points and questions. Explore and see how God may steer the discussion. The following are further questions you may use to guide your interaction with the text.

1. What does Jesus know that escapes the disciples’ attention (vv 1,3,11)? Hence, what impresses you about Jesus washing their feet?
2. Why did Jesus wash his disciples’ feet? To humble them? To be an example of servanthood? To illustrate his mission? To show them real leadership? To show his deep love for them before he died? Some of these? All of these? Other? Elaborate.
3. If you were Peter, would you have reacted as he did? Why or why not? While Peter is taking the washing of his feet literally, what do you think Jesus meant by his statement in verse 8? In verse 10?
4. How does Jesus challenge their idea of what it means to be the chief followers of the Messiah (vv 12-17)? What role reversals do you see here?
5. In your spiritual life, who is one person who has demonstrated what it means to “wash feet”? What did he or she do?
6. What task or responsibility that you currently do is most like “washing feet”?
7. What would it mean in your life to practice foot washing in your daily relationships? Take care of another more? Let another take care of you? Spend quality time with family? Demonstrate affection? Show appreciation? Practice patience and forgiveness? Serve another with no strings attached? Do things that are not “my job”?
8. Specifically, how will you put Jesus’ teaching into practice in at least one relationship this week at home, work or church?

In light of the Scripture passage and discussion, how can this group pray for each other?

\*These questions were adapted from *The Serendipity Bible for Groups* (Zondervan, 1998).