

Central Growth Groups #4: December 12th, 2021: "Our Story"

John 13:4b-15

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.

BOTTOM LINE

USING POWER TO SERVE OTHERS IN LOVE CREATES A BETTER STORY FOR EVERYONE, INCLUDING YOU.

Topic Discussion Questions

WHO IS THE MOST POWERFUL PERSON YOU KNOW?

HOW HAVE YOU EVER SEEN SOMEONE USE POWER IN A NEGATIVE WAY?

IN WHAT WAYS HAS GOD GIVEN YOU POWER OR INFLUENCE?

WHY WAS JESUS' ACTION TOWARD HIS FOLLOWERS (WASHING THEIR FEET) SO SURPRISING?

DO YOU KNOW ANYONE WITH POWER WHO USES IT IN THIS WAY? HOW DOES THEIR POWER AND INFLUENCE BENEFIT THE PEOPLE AROUND THEM?

THINK ABOUT WHO YOU HAVE POWER OR INFLUENCE OVER. IN WHAT WAYS CAN YOU USE THAT INFLUENCE TO SERVE THEM THIS WEEK? WHAT WOULD KEEP YOU FROM DOING THAT?

HOW DOES SERVING OTHERS LEAD TO LIVING A BETTER STORY?

Meeting #1: 10/24/2021

Bottom Line: JESUS CAME TO GIVE US A BETTER STORY, NOT A HAPPY STORY.

Focus Scripture: *The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. John 10:10*



Meeting #2: 11/14/2021

Bottom Line: HAPPINESS DEPENDS ON CIRCUMSTANCES.

JOY TRANSCENDS THEM.

Focus Scripture: *Our hearts ache, but we always have joy. We are poor, but we give spiritual riches to others. We own nothing, and yet we have everything. 2 Cor 6:10 NLT*

Meeting #3: 11/28/2021

Bottom Line: THE PATH TO A BETTER STORY IS RARELY AN EASY PATH.

Focus Scripture: *Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. Romans 5:3-4*

Meeting #4: 12/12/2021

Bottom Line: USING POWER TO SERVE OTHERS IN LOVE CREATES A BETTER STORY FOR EVERYONE, INCLUDING YOU.

Focus Scripture: *Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. John 13:14-15*

Meeting #5 & #6: 12/26/2021

Bottom Line: YOUR STORY IS EITHER MOVING TOWARD LOVE OR AWAY FROM IT.

Focus Scripture: *The Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives; love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Galatians 5:22-23*

Meeting #5 & #6: 12/26/2021

Bottom Line: GOD DOESN'T USE PERFECT PICTURES. HE USES BROKEN PEOPLE.

Focus Scripture: *Who will free me from this life that is dominated by sin and death? Thank God! The answer is Jesus Christ our Lord. Romans 7:24b-25*