

Authentic Love John 13:31-38

CONNECTING

1. Welcome and opening prayer.
2. Introduce any guests.
3. Describe a time when you had to humbly receive help from a friend or family member. Or, when you had opportunity to help someone else.



LOVING ONE ANOTHER (Deepening Spiritual Growth)



Review: On Sunday the crowds hailed Jesus as King while He rode royally into Jerusalem and up to the Temple. But instead of claiming His throne and launching the war of liberation, Jesus again drove the merchants from the Temple and sat down to teach (Luke 19:45-21:38). The crowds were disappointed but the Sanhedrin was not appeased, and one of Jesus' closest disciples was fed up. Jesus had sealed His own fate. By Wednesday He had nothing more to say to the crowds—they had judged themselves by their attitudes toward Him. But He had much more to say to His twelve core disciples and little time to say it. On Thursday evening the thirteen men gathered around a meal; only Jesus knew what would happen before dawn. John 13:1-38.

1. Why do you think Peter objects to what Jesus is doing (13:1-8)?

Took off his outer clothing (13:4). "Jesus stripped to a loin cloth, just like a slave."

Wash his disciples' feet (13:5). This was a menial task (recall the symbolism of feet from 1:27 and 12:3). People went barefoot or in sandals, so their feet got muddy and dusty outdoors. Guests' feet were usually washed on arrival at the host's home—certainly before the meal—by a servant, but Jesus did it in the midst of the meal to make a point.

2. Why does Jesus insist that Peter needs Jesus to wash his feet, although he doesn't need a full bath (13:8-10)? What point is Jesus making?

Only . . . his feet (13:10). A person going to a feast at that time bathed at home so that when he arrived he needed only to have his feet washed for him to be entirely clean.

Peter's denial predicted (13:31-38)

Now that Judas has gone to fetch the temple guard, Jesus has only a few hours to say His parting words to His dearest friends. He begins with a teaching that has been implicit in the whole training of His disciples, but that He only now makes explicit (13:34-35). We will look at this command again along with 15:12-13 in lesson sixteen. In chapter 13 Peter completely ignores the new commandment because he is so aghast that Jesus intends to go somewhere without His disciples (13:33-36).

3. What is ironic about Peter's conviction that he will lay down his life for his Master (13:37-38; compare 10:11, 15; 18:8-18, 25-27)?

4. Knowing what Judas and Peter are about to do, Jesus gives His “new commandment.” Compare John 13:34 to Leviticus 19:18. What is new about 13:34?
5. How does the footwashing help to explain this commandment?
6. Why is this command so crucial for Christians to keep (13:35)?

Your response

7. How have you experienced authentic love from other Christian?
8. How do you fall short in this area? How would you like this truth to affect your life? What practical steps can you take toward cooperating with God in achieving this end?

SEEKING GOD (Drawing Near to God)



1. Conversational prayer is a very effective way to pray in a small group. It is a prayer that unites people in conversation with God and with each other. Like normal conversations, anyone can speak (pray) as many times as they wish and several people will often pray in agreement for the same request. (Begin your time by praising God for who He is and what He has done.)
2. Consider praying an application prayer, “Lord, help me to do _____(what you have show me during this study)?”

SHARING CHRIST (Declaring the Good News)



1. During the past month, how have you sought to build relationships with those on your Prayer, Care and Share in order to direct them toward a personal relationship with Jesus Christ?
2. What activities might we do as a group or with another ministry of our church in order to reach out to our unsaved friends?

SERVING OTHERS (Demonstrating God’s Love)



1. God has called us to serve one another within the church and together to serve those within the community. What effect does it have when Christians demonstrate God’s love through simple but tangible acts of service to those who do not yet know Jesus Christ personally?
 - o Volunteer for 2nd Harvest Food Distribution, the fourth Friday of each month. Call Dean Van Der Werf 763-561-0146, derwerf@comcast.net or sign-up online www.brooklynparkchurch.org/2harvest.