



Week 1: October 3 - 9

Welcome/ Introduce Guests/ Share Life (10 minutes)

Recall the Guidelines/ Open in Prayer

Vision Casting (2 minutes): Our desire is to become more like Christ. Let's stir each other up to love and good works so that we can become more like Him today.

Hook Question (5 minutes): When have you been surprised by the actions of someone?

Ask someone to read the background for the story (2 minutes):

The goal of each Christian should be to become more like Jesus. Paul stated this purpose as the reason God provided apostles, prophets, evangelists, shepherds, and teachers. These people are given to build up the body of Christ by speaking the truth in love so that we can grow to become like Christ in every way (Ephesians 4:15). He also said that it was Christ that he proclaimed, warning everyone and teaching everyone in all wisdom so that he may present everyone fully mature in Christ (Colossians 1:28).

Paul's writings continually pushed people to become spiritually mature. To obtain spiritual maturity he emphasized loving God and others. His love, knowledge, and understanding of Jesus resulted in him leading others to love because a life without love would gain himself or others nothing (1 Corinthians 13:3). Therefore, for us to become fully mature, we must learn to love as Christ first loved us.

Jesus displayed His love for us so that we could learn to become like Him. Today's story takes place just before the Passover. Jesus knew that His time had come to depart from earth. He loved His disciples to the very end and wanted them to see what loving one another looked like. To display His love for them, He decided to do something unusual. This is where our story begins...

Tell the story from John 13:1-20 (12 Minutes): Change the storyteller often.

Rebuild the story: Retell the story as well as possible.

Read John 13:1-20: Ask the group to read these verses.

Discussion Questions: Learn to talk about God's word with others. **(Take as much time as needed.)**

- What do you like or dislike about this story?
- What does this story tell you about people or yourself?
- What does this story teach you about God?
- What is God showing you through this story and discussion?

Ask for a volunteer storyteller for next week. Close in prayer.