



Week 7 (June 14-20): Lesson Guide

Open In Prayer

Welcome/Introductions

Ask the group to recall the guidelines for discussion that we use to create a safe environment.

Ask someone to retell last week's story from Genesis 24:33-67 (Isaac and Rebekah).

Ask someone on your team to read the Hook Question - Ask, "Who do you personally know who is a great example of serving others? Why did you choose that person?"

Ask someone from your team to read the following background for the story:

Last words are powerful and meaningful. Whenever we know a loved one's time is almost up, we cherish their final thoughts and words and listen to them carefully. Our story today focuses on some of the last words of Jesus before He died on the cross for the sins of the world.

Today's story took place around 33 A.D. in Jerusalem. It was evening, less than 24 hours from the execution of Jesus, and just over fifty days until the Holy Spirit would come and the church would be born. Jesus knew that His time to leave this world had come, and that He would be returning to the Father soon. Jesus loved his disciples, and He loved them to the very end. On the night of His arrest, Jesus had dinner with His guys (the disciples) in an upper room. This is where our story begins...

Tell the story from John 13:3-17

Rebuild the story – (Group members tell the story based on what they remember)

Read John 13:3-17 – (Ask the group to read these scriptures)

Play the Video (optional) - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ufaUNGSbYE8>

Discuss these questions:

- Why did Jesus wash His disciples' feet? What did washing the disciples' feet represent?
- Jesus is God. What does this story teach us about God?
- What would this kind of attitude toward service look like if it was practiced in our group?
- Based on the story, what is the Lord speaking to you about service? What do you need to change?

Ask for a volunteer to retell the story one last time.

Ask for a volunteer to tell the story next week.

Prayer Requests (ask someone in the group to take notes so you can email the requests to the group)

Pray (don't feel the need to mention every request in prayer again, just pray for the group and send the email)



Week 7: Leadership Coaching Guide

Leading [learn to facilitate your group more effectively]

- It is imperative to read the story from the Bible during group time. We always want to open the Bible and read the story word for word. This establishes the authority of the story as part of God's Word to us. It also insures that the story is communicated accurately and completely.
- When reading from the Bible, you can ask one person to read the whole passage. This works well for shorter stories. For longer stories, and to involve more group members, you may want to go around the group and take turns reading. Ask each person to read one verse, or several verses, and then move to the next person. Keep track of where you are in the story in case someone needs a prompt.
- Invite everyone to open their Bibles and read along as the story is being read from God's Word!

Shepherding [know the sheep, feed the sheep, lead the sheep, protect the sheep]

- Make plans as a group to spend a day serving together. You may know of someone who needs help with yard work or household repairs. You may want to contact a local mission to see what they need help with. Perhaps your team would like to volunteer by cleaning our flower beds or doing something to improve our church campus. One of your group members may even have a need. Find a need and plan to serve together to meet the need.
- If someone in your group is in the young adult phase and has a heart for serving, you can ask them to help plan the day of service for the group! Giving assignments is an important part of making disciples and helping others grow!

Developing [grow as a disciple yourself]

- 1 Corinthians 13 continues, "It (love) is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged." Phil Ryken, author of *Loving the Way Jesus Loves*, notes that irritability is a natural reaction to annoyances that we should take more seriously because Paul tells us that love is NOT irritable. Ryken asks, "When was the last time you asked the Lord to help you respond graciously to that special person who always annoys you?" To read more, click here: <https://www.crossway.org/blog/2012/04/do-you-take-your-irritability-seriously/>
- When we love like Jesus does, we cannot hang on to a list of grievances that have been committed against us. Once forgiveness has been established and the relationship restored, the wrong doing must be forgotten. Nothing will build more walls in a relationship than a laundry list of past failings. God does not continue to bring up our past. In fact, Psalm 103:12 says, "He has removed our sins as far from us as the east is from the west." Next time you are tempted to dredge up a wrong doing from the past and use it against someone, remember how completely God has forgiven you and give thanks that your past does not define you in God's eyes.