

## DISCUSSION GUIDE

# The Follower's Trail Guide

NAVIGATING THE PATH OF JESUS

### OPENING UP



Have you ever been lost? Share a time when you got lost and how you found your way.

### TEXT



#### The Jesus Way | John 13:1-10

Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. <sup>2</sup> During supper, when the devil had already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him, <sup>3</sup> Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going back to God, <sup>4</sup> rose from supper. He laid aside his outer garments, and taking a towel, tied it around his waist. <sup>5</sup> 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. <sup>6</sup> He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, do you wash my feet?" <sup>7</sup> Jesus answered him, "What I am doing you do not understand now, but afterward you will understand." <sup>8</sup> 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." <sup>9</sup> Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" <sup>10</sup> Jesus said to him, "The one who has bathed does not need to wash, except for his feet,<sup>[a]</sup> but is completely clean. And you<sup>[b]</sup> are clean, but not every one of you."

### MESSAGE OUTLINE



**Big Idea: Jesus paved the way for us to follow.**

1. Jesus paved the way as a servant. (vv. 1-5)
2. Jesus paved the way through his cleansing. (vv. 6-11)
3. Jesus paved the way by giving us an example to follow. (vv. 12-20)



## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Our new series, *The Followers Trail Guide: Navigating the Path of Jesus*, looks at Jesus' final words to his disciples before his death and resurrection. Here, Jesus gives his disciples, and us, a trail guide of sorts to bring clarity and direction to our lives. Is there an area of your life where you could use some direction right now? Have you gone through a season in your life where God provided direction when you desperately need it? If so, what did that look like?
- During his final meal with the disciples, the first thing Jesus does is kneel down to wash their feet (John 13:1-5). Do you think Jesus' servanthood surprised the disciples? How does it surprise you? How does his act encourage and motivate you?
- We learn from John 13:6-11 that Jesus is doing more than just washing feet. His washing signifies union with him through the cleansing work about to be done on the cross. The disciples did not understand this and struggled to embrace this washing. Have you embraced Jesus' cleansing work on the cross alone for your sin? Have you, by faith, renounced your own cleanliness and sufficiency and instead cast yourself wholly upon Jesus to cleanse and purify you? What barriers might exist to keep you from trusting Jesus?
- Read John 13:13-15. Followers of Jesus are to imitate him in humble love and service towards one another. Is there someone in your life who does a great job of imitating Christ in this way? Share more about them. How are you imitating Jesus's heart for others in your life? Where do you struggle to live in obedience to Jesus' command to serve others as Jesus did?
- Following the way of Jesus means following Jesus himself! As he served, we serve. As he loved, we love. As he sacrificed, we sacrifice. Does your life show evidence of following Jesus as a disciple? Where do you desire or hope to grow during this series?

## LIFE CHALLENGE



Jesus paved the way for us to follow him. Will we follow Jesus in his way of humble service? Will we follow Jesus as recipients of his cleansing? Will we follow Jesus in obedience as our example? Take some time to reflect upon the things that hold you back from fully following Jesus and ask God for help in overcoming those strongholds.

Who has God placed in your life that you can serve humbly this week? It may be your spouse, your kids, a family member, neighbor, or even a difficult co-worker.

## CLOSING PRAYER



If you have not made the decision to accept Christ's full cleansing, do so today. Ask God to change you to be more like Jesus and to open your eyes for opportunities to serve those around you in the same way that Jesus served his disciples.