

Small Group Discussion Guide

“Game Time (pt. 4)” – 8/31/14

Scripture: John 13:1-20

Bottom Line: We fulfill God's mission when we go low to sacrificially serve others.

INTRODUCTION: If you had one final thing to communicate to your family, what would it be? Would you instruct your family to love each other no matter what? Would you give specific instructions to your family about their life? When Jesus' public ministry was over, he gathered his disciples together to communicate his last wishes for their lives. Today we will look at what he said.

UNPACKING THE GOSPEL IN THE BIBLE:

Read John 13:1-11

What does Jesus' love for the disciples in verse 1 say about his love for you?

Why did Peter react the way he did to Jesus washing his feet?

- This was humility and service to the extreme. This task was reserved for the lowest of servants, those who had the least amount of respect. Jesus was showing his followers that to follow him means to love others to the extreme (Radical Grace) and to not consider yourself as above any form of service.

Do you struggle with thinking that you are above any form of service?

Read John 12:12-20

Do you understand what Jesus has done for us in washing the disciple's feet?

- He has united us. If Jesus, the Lord, serves us like this then we also should serve one another with great love. No task is too low for us.

At the end of this passage, Jesus tells the disciples that not all of them are clean. Judas had already decided to betray Jesus in his heart. Jesus, however, uses that opportunity to convey one last important point. He tells them beforehand what Judas would do so that afterward they would know Jesus' true identity, "I am he" or literally "I AM". Jesus used this phrase often for the disciples. He was telling them that he is God.

How does Jesus' identity give you hope?

- The fact that God would "go low" and wash the disciple's feet shows me that there is no place that Jesus will not go in order to bring redemption to my life.

UNDERSTANDING HOW THE GOSPEL APPLIES TO MY LIFE:

In your life, do you often think about how Jesus' performance before God has benefited you?

- God's affection for you is not determined by your performance in life, but by Jesus' performance on your behalf. Jesus has earned your forgiveness and your entire relationship with God is kept secure by Jesus. His finished work has perfected you before God forever (Hebrews 10:14).

LIVING OUT THE GOSPEL IN MY EVERYDAY LIFE:

What does it look like to live out the Gospel message even though I still sin every day?

- When a person first becomes a Christian, they confess their sin and place their trust in Jesus. This act eternally secures their standing before God. As we live our lives, we sometimes veer off a path that God wants us to live. When this happens, we repent by confessing our sin to God in prayer, placing our trust in Jesus once again. Then, we pursue the life that Christ wants us to live.

The Crossing Church's strategy for living our calling to serve is:

- Invest
- Invite
- Connect
- Go

Is this strategy part of your life? Where do you need to make adjustments?