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Hey small group leaders! In our current series, “[Navigate](#)”, we’re learning to filter voices, make wise decisions, and align with God’s truth. When we cultivate discernment, we don’t just survive—we thrive in the amazing life God has for us!

We are less than TWO weeks away from our Good Friday and Easter services! Over the past several weeks, we’ve encouraged our church to BE THE INVITE. We hope you will take time during your gatherings and through your communications to encourage your group to be praying about who they’ll invite to join them for one of our several worship services. You can see all of our service times and get resources [HERE](#). Remember ... nobody should be alone on Easter!

Thank you for shepherding a group of people to Love God, Love Others, and Live Sent!

NEED A RESOURCE, HAVE A QUESTION, OR WANT TO HAVE A CONVERSATION?
Let us know how we can help! Contact your groups director or discipleship@rockbridge.cc

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***“We are never more like Jesus than when we are serving others.
There is no higher calling than to be a servant.”***
[Nancy Leigh DeMoss]

LEADER RESOURCES || [Leader Note](#) *We do our best to equip, empower, and encourage you to shepherd your group well. Access a resource by clicking on the underlined title and share them with your group!*

- **[Passage Summary](#)**
 - Jesus is keenly aware of who He is and what He is doing. With what He is going to do on the cross in view, Jesus illustrates what the gospel is about and how it changes a disciples’ self-understanding. By washing His disciples’ feet, Jesus shows the humility that makes the gospel possible, the extent of His love (even for Judas), and how a right understanding of the gospel results in the blessed life of serving others the way Jesus has served us.
- **[John Ch. 13 Commentary](#) & [Washing the Disciples’ Feet](#)**
 - Use the commentary and short video for background and encouragement. These would be good resources to share before you gather.
- **[Why Humble Service Makes Sense](#)**
 - This would be a good resource to share with your group after you gather.

ENGAGE & CONNECT || [Leader Note](#) *The goal for the icebreaker is to prepare your group for the conversation ahead by connecting with one another’s hearts and building joy together.*

Share an interesting story involving feet (i.e. funny, strange, memorable, appropriate).

BEGIN WITH PRAYER || [Leader Note](#) *Begin your time together thanking God for his presence and praying His word back to Him. Ask a few people to pray, taking a posture of humility and dependence!*

Spend a moment praying this passage, beginning your time together in humility and gratitude!

“Just as each one has received a gift, use it to serve others, as good stewards of the varied grace of God. If anyone speaks, let it be as one who speaks God’s words; if anyone serves, let it be from the strength God provides, so that God may be glorified through Jesus Christ in everything. To him be the glory and the power forever and ever. Amen.”

[1 Peter 4:10-11]

BIG IDEA || Leader Note Read this aloud so your group knows the theme of today’s reading and discussion.

As we embrace the significance of the cross, we will more clearly see ourselves as servants and navigate toward serving others.

PASSAGE & DISCUSSION || Leader Note Have people read aloud the passage as instructed. Your role is to FACILITATE, so keep your group moving along, encourage people to share, and look for opportunities to point out the grace and glory of God! Here are two reminders: 1) Every question does not have to be answered ... go where the Spirit leads! 2) Answers do not have to be read aloud ... they’re for guidance!

Have a few people read aloud portions of John 13:1-20.

1. What is most challenging for you about this passage? *This is a good opportunity to go first!*
2. Why is it important that Jesus washed Judas’ feet along with the other disciples? *This highlights Jesus’ love, even for His enemies. It underscores grace, showing that His love is extended to even those who betray Him. It serves as a model for how we should love and serve others without discrimination.*
3. How does Jesus’ question, “Do you know what I have done for you?”, prepare the disciples for His teaching on service? *Jesus is prompting reflection. He wants the disciples to grasp the deeper meaning—that their identity as His followers must be shaped by sacrificial love and service.*
4. How does understanding Jesus’ humility in this passage reshape our approach to leadership and influence? *True leadership in God’s kingdom is servant leadership. Just as Jesus led by serving, we are called to lead through humility, selflessness, and service rather than power or position.*
5. Why is humility and service difficult for us to practice consistently?
6. How has Jesus served you in a specific way that shaped how you should serve others? *This is another good opportunity to go first!*
7. What is a barrier in your life that prevents you from serving others like Jesus did? *Answers will vary: pride, fear, time constraints, or unresolved conflicts often hold us back. Identifying and surrendering these barriers to God can help believers grow in Christ-like service.*
8. Jesus washed the feet of someone who would betray Him. How can you practice servant-hearted love toward someone who has wronged you? *Answers will vary: serving those who hurt us is only possible through God’s grace. Forgiveness, prayer, and remembering Jesus’ love for us even when we fail can help us love difficult people.*
9. How does understanding our identity in Christ (as a servant and disciple) transform our daily priorities and interactions? *Answers will vary: recognizing our identity as servants of Christ shifts our focus from self-centered pursuits to living with intentionality—loving, giving, and sacrificing for others.*

10. How can we actively remind each other to follow Jesus' example of humility and service in our daily lives? *Answers will vary: through accountability, encouragement, and setting group challenges that focus on practical acts of service and love.*

STEP OF OBEDIENCE || Leader Note *This is an opportunity for people to put into practice what the Spirit is inviting them to do and live in obedience to God for the sake of love! You can encourage your group to be accountable to one another and use these to follow up with one another throughout the week.*

Jesus' act of foot washing is more than just an example of humility; it is a powerful illustration of the gospel! Jesus serves us as both Lord and servant, *modeling the kind of love and sacrifice we are called to embody*. Understanding the depth of His love should transform our identity and compel us to live beautiful lives of service to others! Here are a few additional questions to consider ...

- In what area of your life do you **resist** serving others? Why?
- How does Jesus' humility and love **change** the way you see yourself?
- Who can you **serve** this week in a tangible way? Will you commit to **praying** about that?

Give your group a few moments to reflect on their answers to the questions above. Then have your group answer the question aloud. Feel free to separate into smaller groups of 3-4 for this question.

PRAYER FOCUS || Leader Note *We want to commit to praying for OTHERS as a unified church who is dependent upon God for everything. Be intentional about saving at least 5-10 minutes for prayer at the end of your gathering each week to pray together. Pray for one another as well as the prompts below!*

Embracing the Cross & a Life of Service

- Take a moment to reflect on this: the more we embrace the significance of the cross, the more we recognize our true calling— as servants of Christ and of others. Jesus humbled Himself to the point of death on the cross, showing us that true greatness is found in serving. When we fix our eyes on His sacrifice, our hearts are shaped toward humility, love, and service.
- As we pray, let's ask God to help us see ourselves as His servants, ready and eager to love and serve those around us. Let's surrender pride and selfishness, embracing the humility of Christ as we follow Him.