



SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS, 2022

Week 1: John 13

OPENING DISCUSSION

Highs and Lows, >5 minutes

In one or two sentences, share one good moment and one difficult moment from your summer.

Responses from Sunday Worship, >10 minutes

Before we begin our discussion about the Scripture reading from this past week, is there any part of this past Sunday's worship service that impacted you in a significant way?

Small Group Covenant Reminder, >5 minutes

We agree to the following primary values for our group:

- **Confidentiality:** Anything of a personal nature that is said in the meeting is never repeated outside the meeting.
- **Priority:** While we are in the group, we will make the meeting a priority. If we are unable to attend or running late, we will contact the leader.
- **Participation:** We will provide time for each person present to talk if he or she feels comfortable doing so. We will talk about ourselves and our own situations, avoiding conversations about other people. We will listen attentively to one other.
- **Open Chair:** We will consider and invite new people who would benefit from our group.

A READING AND QUIET MEDITATION ON GOD'S WORD

As you prepare to discuss personal reflections about God's presence in your lives, use the passage of Scripture on the next page to focus your hearts and minds on Christ. Have one person from the group read the passage slowly, then allow time for meditation and prayer. Repeat this process three times, then continue to the discussion questions that follow.

John 13:1-5 (NIV)

It was just before the Passover Festival. Jesus knew that the hour had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.

The evening meal was in progress, and the devil had already prompted Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus. Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.

PERSONAL REFLECTIONS ABOUT GOD'S PRESENCE IN OUR LIVES

Reflections from Weekly Scripture Reading and Prayer

1. As these words from John 12 were read today, what words or phrases from the passage stand out to you, and why?
2. In what ways did you encounter Christ in your reading of the Scripture since our last meeting? Consider the following questions to help you articulate this to our group:
 - a. What other specific words or sections of this chapter of the Bible that stood out to you?
 - b. What do you think is the meaning of these portions of the chapter?
 - c. How have these portions of Scripture shaped the way you think and live?
 - d. What fresh insights have you gained about God, yourself, other people, or our world?
 - e. What questions do you still have about this content?

One group member should share a portion of the Bible chapter that stood out to them.

Use these questions above to guide the group discussion.

Then, move on to another portion of the Bible chapter to discuss in the same way.

3. In your attempt to spend time in Scripture and prayer, what difficulties or frustrations did you encounter? What joys or delights?

Encountering God's Presence in Daily Life

1. Group Discussion (if time permits):

Jesus often speaks about glorifying God. To **glorify** means to acknowledge someone's greatness, or to reveal someone's greatness. How might you share God's greatness with the people around you in the week ahead?
2. Private Consideration:

Jesus brought glory to God by his sacrificial death on the cross. Rather than working hard to avoid suffering, how might you acknowledge suffering in your life and embrace it as an opportunity to glorify God?

CLOSING PRAYER

Take prayer requests and close in prayer. Allow time for small group members to pray aloud.

Read the following passage of Scripture to open your time of prayer.

John 13:34-35

"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."