

Leader Corner

Grab a Towel

John 13:12-17

In John's gospel, up to this point, Jesus has been establishing His claim as God's Son with amazing teaching, wisdom, healing, by forgiving sins, and raising Lazarus from the dead. Now, the King of Kings performed the lowest of humble actions by addressing the needs before him—cleaning feet. What in the world is Jesus trying to tell us? Actually, what in the Kingdom of God is He trying to tell us? Let's go deeper.

Main Idea: Grab a Towel! We humbly love one another through serving one another.

Main Practice: When others' needs arise, whether spiritual, physical, emotional or financial, we are to respond with loving service as the Holy Spirit equips us.

Main Teaching: John 13:12-17

Connect with Prayer & Praise

With Praise: Read, sing, or meditate on the first verse of "Oh Master, Let Me Walk with Thee."

"O Master, let me walk with Thee
In lowly paths of service, free
Tell me Thy secret, help me bear
The strain of toil, the fret of care."

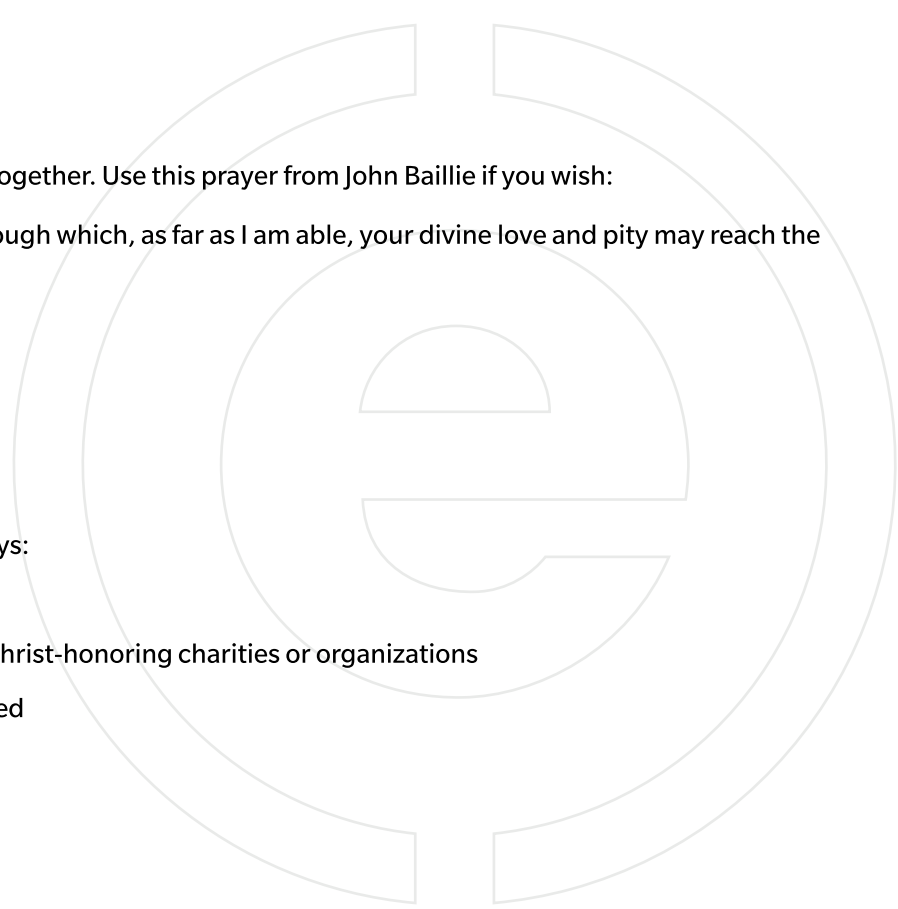
With Prayer: Pray over your discussion and time together. Use this prayer from John Baillie if you wish:

"Dear Father of all, make me a human channel through which, as far as I am able, your divine love and pity may reach the hearts and lives of those who are nearest to me."

with Practice

Look for opportunities to serve in the following ways:

- *help and encourage neighbors
- *volunteer time and/or money to your church or Christ-honoring charities or organizations
- *use your skills and knowledge to help those in need
- *practice hospitality
- *be kind



with Principle

1. Read aloud John 13:12-17.
2. Discuss any questions that Sunday's sermon brought to mind about this passage.
3. In verses 6-8 of this passage, Peter is so humiliated and embarrassed by Jesus' actions that he refuses Jesus offer! Why do you think Peter reacted this way? What did Peter not yet understand about leadership in the Kingdom of God? See Matthew 20:25-28, Philippians 2:3-4.
4. "Do you understand what I have done to you?" Jesus was pointing His disciples to the cleansing that was coming which would cleanse all who believed in Him from sin. Helpful scriptures: 1 Corinthians 15:3, 2 Corinthians 5:21, 1 Peter 2:24, 1 John 1:7-9.
5. Jesus said, "I have given you an example." Jesus is certainly and eternally more than just an example (He is Lord, God, Savior, and Eternal King) but as theologian Rodney A. Whitacre states, "In the story of the foot-washing, we have the most profound revelation of the heart of God apart from the crucifixion itself...which is humble, self-sacrificing love." Discuss our response to this example with these helpful scriptures: Mark 10:45, Romans 12:1, Ephesians 5:1-2, 25, 1 John 3:16.
6. Humble service to others may require great effort and planning of your time, talents and resources. But do not forget to "watch the wind." Don't miss the prompting of the Spirit to willingly meet the needs of your family, friends, small group, community, and yes, even your enemies as those needs arise. Discuss these scriptures with that humility in mind: Galatians 5:13, Colossians 3:23-24, 1 Peter 4:10.
7. Amazingly, in the economy of the Kingdom of God, we are blessed as we serve in the name of Jesus. Share your experiences of being blessed by having had a servant's attitude.

for Further Study

Read Matthew 6:1-4 and 1 Corinthians 10:31. In today's culture, often good things are done, not for God's glory but for the glory of the organization or the person doing them. What can help us develop pure and humble hearts in our service? Helpful scriptures: 1 Chronicles 29:10-14 and 1 Corinthians 4:7.