

lifegroup

resource guide

for the week of 15 September

*John 13.12-17: After Jesus had washed their feet, he put his outer garment back on and returned to his place at the table. “Do you understand what I have just done to you?” he asked. 13 “You call me Teacher and Lord, and it is right that you do so, because that is what I am. 14 I, your Lord and Teacher, have just washed your feet. You, then, should wash one another’s feet. 15 I have set an example for you, so that you will do just what I have done for you. 16 I am telling you the truth: no slaves are greater than their master, and no messengers are greater than the one who sent them. 17 Now that you know this truth, how happy you will be if you put it into practice!*

If there is one word to sum up the ministry of Jesus, I think it is this: service. His whole ministry was an expression of service. This is apparent from the tenor of the Gospel narratives and from His many words on this subject: “You know that those who are considered rulers of the heathen have power over them, and the leaders have complete authority. 43 This, however, is not the way it is among you. If one of you wants to be great, you must be the servant of the rest; 44 and if one of you wants to be first, you must be the slave of all. 45 For even the Son of Man did not come to be served; he came to serve and to give his life to redeem many people.” (Mark 10.42-45). Jesus made clear that the way of the cross is the discipline and lifestyle of Christian service in distinct contrast with world leaders who are preoccupied by status and authority.

This lesson of “royal service” must have been imprinted indelibly on the minds of the disciples by what happened at the Last Supper. In the Middle East feet quickly get hot and dusty, and it was the job of the household slave to wash them. At the Last Supper there was no household slave to do the job and no apostle willing to lose face by taking up the task. So, there they sat with unwashed feet. After all, isn’t it better to remain dirty and maintain one’s dignity? How astonishing it must have been when Jesus rose from the supper, laid aside his garments, wrapped a towel around His waist, and began washing their feet (John 13.4-5). He was reintroducing them again to his revolutionary idea of greatness. Jesus reinforces the radical truth that greatness is measured in service. He relentlessly presses the point home when He asks them: “*Do you understand what I have just done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord, and it is right that you do so, because that is what I am. I, your Lord and Teacher, have just washed your feet. You, then, should wash one another’s feet. I have set an example for you.*”

Jesus viewed leadership through the lens of service NOT status; a function not simply a position. Service is both the paradigm and the pattern for the woman or man intent on following Jesus. Jesus is the Servant of the Lord because He is forever and always supremely the Servant. This was His glory and He looked for no other. And so it must be for anyone desiring to be known as “Christian”.

Enjoy your LifeGroup!

What was your favorite song, book, and/or movie of the summer? Why?

Was there an area in your life that you experienced spiritual grown this summer? Share it!

Anticipating our future together…

Catching up…

We are all different! We have different temperaments, experiences, gifts, and strengths. Yet, Jesus wants to bring us together to experience genuine community that includes friendship and authentic spiritual growth. Community does not “just happen”. It requires intentionality. LifeGroups are for those who want to build and experience community that gathers in expectation that Jesus is present and we will be too! Therefore, we have created the following expectations for our LifeGroups:

We will meet on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

We will arrive between \_\_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_\_ and we will meet from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_.

We will make a 12 week commitment to our LifeGroup.

We will express our commitment by attending weekly, completing the Resource Guide beforehand, praying, participating in the discussion, and relationally engaging. We recognize that these are key to a healthy group!

We will make a commitment to pray for one another in our gatherings and outside of our group meetings.

What are your hopes and aspirations for participating in a LifeGroup?

What is one way that you would like to grow spiritually this Fall?

Prayer requests…