



COMMUNITY GROUP LEADER'S STUDY GUIDE

For the week of April 9, 2023

Leader's Notes

We only have 5 weeks left of Community Group! Plan your end of the year social now.

Announcements

- **Survival Spanish** – Friday's, 6:00 - 8:00pm located at 3909 Wisconsin Ave. Tampa 33616 Learn Spanish from an experienced & certified Spanish teacher at no cost! Join us every Friday to learn survival and conversation Spanish together in a fun and warm environment. -- Please RSVP with Deb at 813-390-7145
- **Celebrate Recovery** - Every Thursday at our BP campus. We have dinner 5:30-6:15 and start at 6:30p-8:30p. Childcare is provided for kids under 6 and 6 -15 are invited to be part of our student program. If you have a hurt that needs to be addressed, don't wait. Come join us and find a safe place to authentically work through your issue. We cover a variety of hang-ups to include: Co-dependency; Anger; Love & Relationship Issues; Sexual Integrity; Food Issues; Physical/Emotional/Sexual Abuse; Chemical Addictions of any kind. Dinner is \$10. The rest of the evening is completely free. You will find hope at Celebrate Recovery.

My Story

1. What is one thing from this past Easter weekend that you want to remember?

Fun question for all to answer

2. What very sincere promise did you once make but failed to deliver on?

Quick Review

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or something that caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

Digging Deeper

1. Jesus initiated the first Communion knowing Judas would betray Him, the disciples would desert Him and Peter would deny Him. In John 13:1-17, we see the events leading up to the Passover meal (first Communion). What choices and actions do you see Jesus making in response to the knowledge that He is about to be betrayed, abandoned and crucified by those closest to Him?

John 13:1-17 (New International Version)

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. 2 The evening meal was in progress, and the devil had already prompted Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus. 3 Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; 4 so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. 5 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. 6 He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" 7 Jesus replied, "You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand." 8 "No," said Peter, "you shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me." 9 "Then, Lord," Simon Peter replied, "not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!" 10 Jesus answered, "Those who have had a bath need only to wash their feet; their whole body is clean. And you are clean, though not every one of you." 11 For he knew who was going to betray him, and that was why he said not every one was clean. 12 When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them. 13 "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. 14 Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. 15 I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. 16 Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. 17 Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them."

John makes an intentional choice to introduce the story by telling us about Jesus watching the disciple's feet (typically the job of a servant). In the midst of Jesus celebrating the old Covenant (the Passover meal) He is also establishing a new Covenant (through the Communion with the bread and wine). He does all of this, knowing he's about to be betrayed and abandoned. Even though Jesus knows that He will be alone as He heads to the cross, He still serves them by washing their feet; He's giving them a specific example of what the new Covenant and kingdom look like.

If you had been sitting around the table with the disciples, what do you think your response would have been to what you just witnessed?

How might this passage give us insight into what Jesus thinks about us?

2. One part of the story of Easter that isn't mentioned so much is what happened to Judas after he betrayed Jesus. Reading the following passage, why do you think Judas is suddenly seized with remorse? Do you think he was expecting a different outcome?

Matthew 27:1-5 New International Version

27 Early in the morning, all the chief priests and the elders of the people made their plans how to have Jesus executed. 2 So they bound him, led him away and handed him over to Pilate the governor. 3 When Judas, who had betrayed him, saw that Jesus was condemned, he was seized with remorse and returned the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and the elders. 4 "I have sinned," he said, "for I have betrayed innocent blood." "What is that to us?" they replied. "That's your responsibility." 5 So Judas threw the money into the temple and left. Then he went away and hanged himself.

Have you ever felt beyond redemption? To whom did you turn?

Peter denied Christ three times. Judas betrayed him once. And yet Peter grieved over his sin and repented. The sin of Judas was great. He had seen the miracles of Jesus and heard his teachings, and still betrays him for money. And yet Jesus would have restored him. If God can forgive Judas, then he can forgive any of us. No matter the level of your failures, God can restore you. That is the good news.

Taking It Home

1. Sometimes we can get stuck in an area and believe there is no hope of change for us. Read Romans 8:1-4 and note the ways the gospel has changed us.

Romans 8:1-4 New International Version (NIV)

8 Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, 2 because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death. 3 For what the law was powerless to do because it was weakened by the flesh, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in the flesh, 4 in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

We are no longer condemned, free from sin and death, made righteous, given the Spirit.

We can fall into thinking that because we sin, we are still sinners, but the gospel changes that. What aspect of the above passage is most difficult for you to believe about yourself?

This can be one of the most difficult things to believe about the Gospel, that we are made new. We no longer are sinners but are a new creation. Feel free to help your group see that they do not need to identify with their past, but can step into a new identity.

Additional Verses: [1 Corinthians 6:10-11](#), [2 Corinthians 5:17](#)

Can you think of any ways a new identity in Christ could change the way you think about areas of struggle in life?

Let this be an uplifting conversation. Allowing people to reflect on this could be really powerful and encouraging. Some people may not have anything to share, while others may share about a current struggle where this could be a massive shift for them in their thinking.

Additional Question: How does the concept of freedom play out in your commitment to follow Jesus?

2. Is there anything in this week's message or study you want to focus on remembering this week?

Prayer Requests

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