

TO WHOM SHALL WE GO?...

A Video Bible Study Series

(John 6:68, NIV)

EPISODE 3 – LOVING IN COMMUNITY

REIMAGINE COMMUNITY SERIES (JOHN 13:1-17; 34-35)

- In this Bible study we have talked about belonging and growing in community. Most of all, we need to be loving in community.
- Jesus' mission is to find anyone who is lost and save them. He passed His mission on to His disciples before He ascended into heaven. They were to go and make disciples of all nations, and baptize them in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. This is found in the **Gospel of Matthew 28:19**.
- This mission is also meant for us. Jesus calls Christians to carry out His mission through the power of His Holy Spirit, and through the love we experience being in community with Jesus.
- Jesus spent three years forming community with His disciples. After He had gone into heaven the Holy Spirit came and gave the disciples the boldness to bring more believers into that community. They did this by showing everyone the same love Jesus showed them. This is how the early Church began.
- During His earthly ministry, Jesus showed many times how much He loved the disciples. The greatest way Jesus showed His love for the disciples (and for us!) was by dying a painful death on a cross.



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- Right before He was to be arrested, Jesus showed His love in a teaching moment. He wanted them to understand they needed to love others as He loved them. This story is found in the **Gospel of John 13:1-17**.
- It was just before the Passover Feast. Jesus knew that the time had come for Him to leave this world. Jesus loved His disciples, so He now loved them to the very end.
- They were having their evening meal. The devil had already tempted Judas Iscariot to betray Jesus. Jesus knew that the Father had put everything under His power. So, He got up from the meal and took off His outer clothes. He wrapped a towel around His waist. He poured water into a large bowl. Then He began to wash His disciples' feet. He dried them with the towel that was wrapped around Him.
- Jesus came to Simon Peter. "Lord," Peter said to Him, "are you going to wash my feet?"
- Jesus replied, "You don't realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand."
- "No," Peter said. "You will never wash my feet."
- Why was Peter upset? Back in Jesus' time everyone traveled on dirt roads wearing sandals, and some didn't even have sandals. As they walked the roads, their feet became filthy. Before they could enter someone's home their feet needed to be washed and this task fell to the lowest servant in the household.
- However, there was no servant in the room where Jesus and the disciples were eating. And it's likely none of the disciples wanted to lower himself and wash the others' dirty feet.
- Jesus was their Teacher and He wanted to teach His disciples how to humble themselves and love one another. So, Jesus, the Son of God, took on the role of the lowest servant by washing His disciples' feet. This was why Peter was horrified that Jesus was going to wash his feet.

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- Jesus answered Peter, “Unless I wash you, you can’t share life with me.”
- “Lord,” Peter replied, “then not just my feet! Wash my hands and my head, too!”
- Jesus answered, “People who have had a bath need to wash only their feet. The rest of their body is clean. And you are clean. But not all of you are.” Jesus said this because He knew who was going to hand Him over to His enemies.
- When Jesus finished washing their feet, He put on His clothes. Then He returned to His place. “Do you understand what I have done for you?”
- He asked them. “You call me ‘Teacher’ and ‘Lord.’ You are right. That is what I am. I, your Teacher and Lord, have washed your feet. So, you also should wash one another’s feet. I have given you an example. You should do as I have done for you.”
- “What I’m about to tell you is true. A slave is not more important than his master. And a messenger is not more important than the one who sends him. Now you know these things. So, you will be blessed if you do them.”
- Jesus’ message to love and serve others in community was important for the disciples to understand. It’s an important message for us, too. As Christians we should never think we are better than others. Rather, we need to invite others into community and share God’s love with them. This is how we can show our love for others.
- Jesus told His disciples many other things after washing their feet. One important statement He made is found in **John 13:34-35**. Jesus told His disciples, “I give you a new command. Love one another. You must love one another, just as I have loved you. If you love one another, everyone will know you are my disciples.”
- This is the second time in this Bible study we have learned this command to love one another. It must be an important lesson for us! It is only through Jesus’ love for us and the Holy Spirit in our lives that we can love other people.

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- Throughout the Gospels we see all kinds of people being drawn to Jesus: broken people, sinful people, and people who were outcasts. All of them were loved by Jesus. Today, people will be drawn to Jesus by our love. This is how we bear fruit!
- There are many ways we can show love to others: praying with a housemate who is hurting, helping a caregiver with chores, saying a kind word to a co-worker at work. When we do these things and more, we are showing God's love and welcoming others into our Christian communities.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What mission did Jesus pass on to His disciples, and to us?

- Jesus commanded His disciples, and us, to go make disciples of all nations, and baptize them in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

2. Why did the disciples need their feet washed? Who usually washed guests' feet?

- Back then everyone walked on dirt roads, some with sandals and others with no sandals at all. It was the lowest servant in the household who washed the feet of guests.

3. Why did Jesus wash the disciples' feet?

- There was no servant in the room where Jesus and the disciples were eating. It is likely none of the disciples wanted to lower himself and wash the others' dirty feet. Jesus wanted to teach His disciples how to humbles themselves and love one another.

4. What command did we hear from Jesus twice in this Bible study, and why is it important?

- "I give you a new command. Love one another. You must love one another, just as I have loved you. If you love one another, everyone will know you are my disciples." This comes from the Gospel of John 13:34-35. Our love for others will draw people to Jesus, and we bear fruit!

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PERSONAL QUESTIONS

1. Who can you share God's love with today?
2. Share with your friends how the Holy Spirit is working in your life.

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