



One Hope Community Church Suggested Reading Plan & Guide Book of John: Chapter 13

Spiritual transformation happens when we purposefully spend time with God each day. God created you and is waiting to be known by you.

Always begin in prayer, begin the conversation with God. Before opening your Bible, ask God to send His Holy Spirit to you and ask Him to reveal whatever wisdom and insights He wants you to learn.

Reflect on what you have read and take notes. The questions below are designed to help you examine the scriptures and provide discussion points in a small group setting.

We know small groups meet on various days. You may find it's helpful to read all of the verses and begin considering the questions so that you are ready to discuss them with your small group when it meets. This is your space for your time with God, learning and experiencing spiritual transformation. The discussion with your small group is meant to help you learn from each other and grow deeper in community.

Song for the week: Abandoned - Benjamin William Hastings

<https://youtu.be/b4Ty3kUQbiQ?si=59114z81z4esGTmO>

Suggested Reading Plan John 13

Day 1: John 13:1

Day 2: John 13:2-11

Day 3: John 13: 12-17

Day 4: John 13:18-20

Day 5: John 13:21-30

John 13:1

Passover is both a day and a festival as is the Feast of Unleavened Bread. The celebration of these days began with the Israelites leaving slavery in Egypt (Exodus 12) and is detailed again in Leviticus, a book which details laws and rituals, in chapter 23.

At the first Passover, a perfect, unblemished lamb was sacrificed. In faith, the Jews put the blood over their doorposts which the angel of death saw and then passed over their homes while in the homes of those who did not believe (the Egyptians), their first born males died. The passover meal included eating the meat of the lamb and unleavened bread. Unleavened bread was made without leaven - the substance that would cause the dough to rise. In the Bible, leaven typically represents sin. Jews continue to celebrate Passover and remember.

Jesus knew these traditions and what they represented. He knew His time had come and He would be fulfilling the prophetic meaning. In what ways did Jesus fulfill the Passover? How does this relate to you personally?

Jesus "Having loved his own who were in the world, He loved them to the end." His great love lead Him to the cross, the end of His life as fully human and fully God. When He rose, He had His heavenly body. Close your eyes. Put your name in the verse. Jesus loved you to the end. Let that sink in to your spirit. Do not rush it. Sit with the Holy Spirit for a few minutes as He seeps you in this message. What does this kind of love stir in you?

"God already knows our deepest thoughts." (Romans 8:27) He knows all you have done and all you have thought and He still loves you. "He is faithful and just to forgive our sins." (1 John 1:9) Spend some time in confession. Receive forgiveness. He says, "I will remember their sins no more." (Hebrews 8:12) Thank Him for making a way to be in right relationship with Him.

John 13:2-11

In John 12, Mary washed Jesus's feet. It was a job reserved for lowly servants and yet out of her great love for Jesus, she washed His feet. John 13 says Jesus knew He was "returning to God so He got up from the meal ... and began to wash his disciples feet."

Imagine you are on a long visit with your dearest loved ones and you are about to go back home. If you wanted to communicate your love to them before you left, what might you do?

Jesus' love lead Him to serving and to washing away the dirt on his disciples feet. When Peter at first refused, Jesus said, "Unless I wash you, you have no part with Me." Peter eagerly replied then "wash my hands and feet as well!" His desire to be with Jesus was greater than his hesitation.

Spend a moment being still with God. Put aside your other thoughts, concerns and prayers. Ask Him to increase your desire to be with Him.

In a few hours Jesus' love would lead Him to His crucifixion, washing away sin for all of us who believe in Him. Listen to Michael W. Smith's "Washed Away" <https://youtu.be/p5JeGY81kZo> and as you do, invite the Holy Spirit in to wash you clean.

Consider listening to this song again as a small group. How does this practice of listening to worship privately versus in community affect you differently?

John 13:12-17

In Biblical times, disciples served their teachers. And they emulated their teachers, following their example. Jesus told His disciples that He set the example for them for how to serve and care for one another.

Determine some ways you can follow Jesus' actions today. Who will you serve and how? At the end of your day, talk with God about the experience. Thank Jesus for being your example. Pray for the person you served.

"Consider how to spur others to love and good deeds" (Hebrews 10:24) by your example; share your experience with your small group or someone else you know.

Depending on the translation, the word "blessing" is in the Bible between 67-85 times. Webster's dictionary defines it as "a thing conducive to happiness or welfare." In John 13:17 the word blessed is from the Greek word makarioi, the same word used in the beatitudes (Matthew 5 and Luke 6). It means "God extends His benefits."

What are some ways God extends His benefits to us when we serve one another?

1 Peter 4:10 says, "Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms." How has God uniquely created you and gifted you to serve others?

John 13:18-20

Jesus shares with His disciples that He chose ALL of them even knowing one of them would betray Him. The prophecy from Psalm 41:9 (Even my close friend, someone I trusted, one who shared my bread, has turned against me.) is fulfilled.

Jesus knew Judas would betray Him when He chose him for a disciple. Jesus knew Judas' intention as they were eating the meal together. But the other disciples did not know and would soon be surprised by this. He prepared them for what was coming.

What are some ways God has prepared you for something that was about to happen in your life?

In Jesus' time, people viewed friendship shared at a table, with a meal, as a covenant of friendship. There are 27 Bible verses about covenant relationships. These relationships were to be loyal and binding (consider David and Jonathan in 1 Samuel 18:1, "After David had finished talking with Saul, Jonathan became one in spirit with David, and he loved him as himself.")

Have you ever experienced the breaking of a relationship? With a parent? A sibling? A friend? A spouse? Jesus as fully human knows how that feels. How does His being able to empathize with you bring you comfort?

John 13:21-30

John was the disciple whom Jesus loved and he was leaning back on or reclining next to Jesus. There is trust, love and peace in that position. 1 John 4:16 says, "And so we know and rely on the love God has for us." Isaiah 26: 3 says, "You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in you."

Know that you also are the one whom God loves. That He would invite you to recline next to Him, to lean on Him. God will keep you in perfect peace, as you are trusting in Him and sitting with Him. Take a moment to sit with God. Breathe in "God loves me." Breathe out "I can trust in Him." Breathe in "Holy Spirit bring me Your peace." Breathe out "Thank you." How do you feel your thinking and feeling shifting? What do you feel in your spirit?