



Session 6: Loving Other Disciples Like Jesus Does

Core Theme: Love other disciples – Jesus loved his friends; washed their feet; and invited them to tend, respect, forgive, and ultimately LOVE one another. He shows us how to be in relationship and partnership with fellow disciples.

Core Scripture: John 13:2-5

Suggested Session 6 Schedule

1. Welcome and Opening Prayer (3 minutes)

2. Meal (30 minutes, including Check-in described under #3)

Enjoy a meal together, following earlier guidance around the meal. About 15 minutes in, welcome people to shift gears and gather round for the check-in. Continue to notice who builds relationships quickly and who might need a nudge to connect. Continue to notice if anyone seems disengaged, acutely quiet, or alone during the meal, and check in with them.

3. Check-in (15-20 minutes – if sharing meal, occurs during mealtime)

Following a brief review and reaffirmation of the covenant, offer one of the following questions for check-in:

- Since our last session, where have you seen Jesus in the context of community?
- How did the scripture from the last session show up in your life?
- What did you learn about the Way of Love practice of Go?
- How do you feel as you arrive here?
- What do you need to acknowledge before you can fully be present today?
- *Create your own check-in question.*

Heed earlier guidance around check-in, including using the talking piece, listening respectfully, and honoring each person's time to speak. If you notice check-ins running long, offer a time limit and begin by modeling a check-in within that time frame. You may also gently remind people to return to the covenant to honor the time and others' opportunities to speak.

4. Content Engagement (45 minutes)

Once everyone has checked in, it's time to move into the next part of your small group meeting: content engagement. For the sixth session, we seek to know more about life with Jesus through his relationships.

Show: Session 6: Part A Video

Note: To save time, participants can watch this video on their own before the gathering.

Discuss the following questions as a group, inspired by the Session 6: Part A Video. Remember: You need not cover all the questions in this relatively short time. If it would be helpful, break into pairs or trios for about 5 minutes to facilitate giving everyone getting a chance to speak. Then, come back to the larger group and share for the remaining 10 minutes. Use these questions or others, as appropriate:

Wondering Questions

- How does Jesus show us how to be in relationship and partnership with fellow disciples?
- How have you been challenged to love other Christians?
- Where might Jesus be calling you and your Christian community to love one another more fully?
- What in this video resonated with or challenged you?

Show: Session 6: Part B Video

Watch the video as a group, then discuss the following questions together:

Wondering Questions

In the second video, we hear how three leaders learned to connect and love other Christians, even when it's challenging.

- As you listened to their conversation, what came up for you?
- Where is God calling you to build a bridge or to honor another person's story and journey?

5. Check-out and Closing Prayer (7 min)

Follow earlier suggestions for check-out (confirm time and location for next session, share Make It Yours opportunities), especially inviting group members to share **one word** about the time they've spent together today.

If time permits, offer this question for check-out: *How has the group blessed you tonight?*

Close with prayer, welcoming prayer requests from each person, which the group leader or a volunteer gathers and offers up. Pray spontaneously, choose your favorite prayer, or try the prayer below attributed to St. Francis.

Lord, make us instruments of your peace. Where there is hatred, let us sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is discord, union; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. Grant

that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned, and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.

6. Make It Yours: At-Home Engagement Opportunities

- For a deeper dive, encourage your group to review and reflect on Session 6 in the Participant Guidebook before your next gathering.
- Invite participants to learn more about the Way of Love spiritual practices of [Bless](#). Ask them to consider how it differs from the practice of [Go](#), and how they can apply these practices in their life between now and the next session.