



## **Session 6:** **Loving Other Disciples Like Jesus Does**

### **Focus Prayer**

Before you begin your reflection time, offer this prayer or the words of your own heart. God, give me ears to hear, eyes to see, and a heart to know your love through my time here today. Amen.

### **Core Theme**

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

### **Scripture John 13:1-17, 33-35**

Now before the festival of the Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas, son of Simon Iscariot, to betray him. And during supper, Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands and that he had come from God and was going to God, got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him.

He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" Jesus answered, "You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand." Peter said to him, "You will never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no share with me." Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" Jesus said to him, "One who has bathed does not need to wash, except for the feet, but is entirely clean. And you are clean, though not all of you." For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, "Not all of you are clean."

After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, he said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord—and you are right, for that is what I am. So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you.

"Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them."

"Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the

Jews so now I say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.' I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

In a journal or with a partner, explore the following:

- In the passage from John 13:1-17, 33-35, what did you notice from Jesus' words and actions? What did you notice about the disciples' words and actions? What about the actions of those who followed Jesus? Why do you think these stood out to you?
- In this scripture, Jesus washed the disciples' feet and invited them to tend, respect, forgive, and ultimately to LOVE one another. How does his example inspire you? How does he challenge you?
- What have you learned from the life of Jesus about how we should love fellow disciples and followers of Jesus?
- Have you ever found it hard to love other Christians? What helped you to love them as Jesus would?
- What helps you and your community love one another as Jesus did?
- What intention would you like to set to help you follow Jesus' example this week?

### Closing Prayer

Close your reflection time with prayer, either with these words or your own.

*I give thanks for my siblings in the faith. May my love increase for all members of the Body of Christ. Amen.*

### Additional Engagement Opportunities

- Between now and Session 7, practice Learn and Pray from the Way of Love with prayer and scripture reading.
- Reflect to yourself or in your journal: How do your small group members love and care for each other. What are you willing to do for one another? How can you show love to everyone in the group, including people you don't feel as close to or like as much as others?
- Learn more about the Way of Love spiritual practice of Bless. How does it differ from the practice of Go? How can you apply these practices in your life between now and the next session?