**

BIBLE STUDY – LEADER’S GUIDE (70 min)

***Scripture Passage: John 13:1-30 (pages 42.2-44.5)***

5 min Community and Vision – *Lead an activity that helps your group get to know one another. Then tell the group* ***your vision*** *for why you are meeting and what you want to see God do.*

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2 min Pray – *Ask the Holy Spirit to guide your study.*

3 min Read – *Read the text individually and out loud together.*

2 min Context – “What comes immediately before and after this passage? What parts of this passage might be influenced by history or culture?” *Identify the context together.*

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| John was an esteemed figure in the church, and he wrote to show Jesus as Christ so people could believe and have life (20:30-31). John lived in Ephesus, and his primary audience was unbelieving Greek-speaking Jews.  - festival of the Passover (Ex. 12:1-28)  - footwashing as hospitality (Gen. 18:4, 19:2, 24:32, 43:24, Judges 19:21), as service (1 Sam. 25:41), and for priests before ministry (Ex. 30:17-21) |

5 min Observe – “Let’s look closely at the passage and gather the facts by marking what we see. Be like a **curious investigator**. Note characters, relationships, locations, time, actions, repeated words, comparisons, contrasts, cause and effect. Make sections and label them.”

15 min Share – “Let’s share our observations out loud. If you see something, say something. Be careful not to draw conclusions yet.” *Start in pairs or go in a circle, if they need a warmup.*

25 min Interpret – “Let’s get curious and ask questions that will help us discuss what the author wanted the original readers to understand. Good questions come from key observations.”

*Collect their questions and then arrange them in the order of the text.*

*Add 1-2 key questions you prepared ahead of time, if necessary.*

*Decide which 4-5 are most significant, and use the passage to answer those together.*

“While answering, let’s listen and make **space for one another** as we share. We will keep the **text at the center** and avoid using any resource the original readers would not have had. Let’s keep each other on track by saying, **‘Help us see that in the text.’**”

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| What does it mean that Jesus loved his disciples to the end?  What is Jesus saying about the relationship among himself, believers, and the one who sent him?  What might it have been like to be John (or Simon Peter, or Judas) in the moment Jesus publicly exposed the betrayer?  Why does Jesus choose foot-washing as his way of offering an example to follow? (How would the disciples and John's readers have understood this example and Jesus' explanation?) |

3 min Summarize – “If you could communicate the main point of this passage in just one sentence, what would it be? What core message is the author communicating to the original audience?” *After some group discussion, share the brief summary and core message you prepared.*

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| Jesus could have wielded great power over his followers, but instead he serves them in loving humility, even the one who would betray him. Want to be like Jesus? Humbly serve, no matter what status you could claim. **The love of Jesus is not constricted by the disciples' comprehension of him or their faithfulness to him.** |

8 min Apply – “Let’s apply the core message to our own lives by answering this question.”

*Prepare an application question beforehand. Use these examples to help you get started.*

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| What would it look like to let Jesus wash your feet, to allow him to love you and serve you on his own terms?  What person or group of people (betrayers, even) might Jesus be inviting you to love by imitating his humble service? |

*Allow a quiet moment and then share all together or just in pairs. Model vulnerability.*

2 min Pray – *Close in prayer together or in pairs.*

3 May 2019 – download this resource from tinyurl.com/leadbiblestudy