

Following Jesus' Example As We Prepare for Easter John 13

Know the purpose of Easter

- **A sacrifice of Jesus' life to glorify God.** John 12:27-28
"Now My soul has become troubled; and what shall I say, 'Father, save Me from this hour'? But for this purpose I came to this hour. 'Father, glorify Your name.' Then a voice came out of heaven: 'I have both glorified it, and will glorify it again.'"
- **An expression of Jesus' love for us.** John 13:1
"Now before the Feast of the Passover, Jesus knowing that His hour had come that He would depart out of this world to the Father, having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end."

Who are we to love like Christ did?

- **Judas Iscariot**
One living in sin. John 13:10-11; John 6:70
One who betrays you. John 13:2; Psalm 41:9
One that is a phony follower of Jesus. John 12:4-8
- **Peter**
One with inconsistent, frustrating faith. Matthew 14:28-31
One with an immature faith. Matthew 16:16-23
One that reflects pride. Matthew 18:21-22
One that fails to keep promises to you. Matthew 26:33-35; Matthew 26:69-75

How are we to love others like Christ did?

- **Humbly serve them, but lovingly speak the truth.** John 13:5-20
Do not condone the sin or condemn the sinner.
- **Grieve over their sin rather than judging or ridiculing them.** John 13:21
"When Jesus had said this, He became troubled in spirit, and testified and said, 'Truly, truly, I say to you, that one of you will betray Me.'"
- **Patiently hope for and seek reconciliation and restoration.** John 13:26, 36-38
"Jesus then answered, 'That is the one for whom I shall dip the morsel and give it to him.'" So when He had dipped the morsel, He took and gave it to Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot."
- **Never stop loving them no matter the results.** John 13:1, 34-35
"He loved them to the end... 'A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. 'By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.'"

The week before Easter allowed Jesus some alone time with His disciples. After the palm branch entrance, He was able to teach, eat and share communion with His disciples. In John 13-17, Jesus shares His heart and desires for His disciples and His future plans. This is a week for us to prepare for Easter and reach out to people as Jesus did.

LifeGroup Discussion:

John 13:1 introduces a key point Jesus wants to teach His disciples as He Himself prepares for His own crucifixion days later. John said that Jesus loved His disciples to the very end.

Whom do you love that needs the love of Jesus?

Two people are noted by name in John 13: Judas Iscariot and Peter.

Even after telling us that Jesus loved them to the very end, why would these two men be difficult to love? (You can look up the passages on the front of the outline for ideas.)

Do you have people in your life who are difficult to love? If so, what makes them so hard to love? What barriers to loving them do you need to overcome?

How did Jesus express His love, even to Judas and Peter, in John 13:5? Would you be able to love your “difficult friends” in this way?

What did Jesus tell us again in John 13:34-35? Discuss ways to love those people in your life who are easy to love and difficult to love.

Read I Corinthians 13. In what ways should your love be expressed according to verses 4-7?

Pray for those you love and whom Jesus loves. Ask God for specific ways to reach out and model the love of Jesus to those people.

Next Steps:

1. **Show love by inviting a friend to come to one of our Easter services next Sunday morning.** Pick up a yard sign or some extra invitation cards in the Lobby at Connection Point Central to use to invite your neighbors, family and friends for any of the Easter Sunday services:

- **SUNRISE: 6:30 am | Patio**
Outdoor family-style worship gathering
- **CELEBRATION: 9:00 am | Worship Center**
Hymns and praise music with the Celebration Choir
- **ELEVATION: 11:00 am | Worship Center**
Modern-style Worship with the Elevation Band
- **RENOVACIÓN: 11:00 am | Chapel**
Hispanic service with a praise band (en Español)

Nursery - K programs are available for kids at 9am + 11am services.

Learn more at calvarylife.org/easter

2. **Write down five ways that you can show love to people that are part of our church. Then get started doing it!**