

Facilitator:

1. Open with Prayer
2. Welcome any newcomers
3. Give a 5-minute review of Peppy's sermon

Facilitator:

Please don't feel you have to cover every question. They become increasingly deeper and more thoughtful toward the end. It may help to highlight questions you want to be sure to cover, depending on the dynamics of your group and the time available. Try to keep your discussion to an hour and a half at the most.

Facilitator: Spend a few minutes discussing with the group their individual efforts with Project 3T. Encourage members to continue working on the project. Day of Reckoning is December 11, 2016.

CONNECT Group study questions for September 18, 2016

Title: It's Not My Job

Facilitator:

Read John 13:1-17 *Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. During supper, when the devil had already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him, Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going back to God, rose from supper. He laid aside his outer garments, and taking a towel, tied it around his waist. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was wrapped around him. He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, do you wash my feet?" Jesus answered him, "What I am doing you do not understand now, but afterward you will understand." Peter said to him, "You shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered him, "If I do not 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, "The one who has bathed does not need to wash, except for his feet, but is completely clean.*

And you are clean, but not every one of you.” For he knew who was to betray him; that was why he said, “Not all of you are clean.”

When he had washed their feet and put on his outer garments and resumed his place, he said to them, “Do you understand what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you. Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.

Children’s Questions: What does serving mean to you? How do you think you can serve Christ in your life? What are some things that stop you from serving? Do you think you can overcome the things that stop you from serving? How?

Question: What job/s have you held that were particularly unpleasant? What comes to mind when you think of jobs you would not do? **Facilitator:** I’m thinking of a TV commercial: “I’m not a brain surgeon, but I stayed at a Holiday Inn Express last night.” Or Mike Rowe and his “Dirty Jobs” reality show series.

Question: In the sermon, Pastor Peppy outlined three reasons we may think serving isn’t our job: laziness, pride and not understanding agape love. Can you think of other things that keep us unwilling to serve or even seeing the need around us?

Question: What about agape love? What is it? How does it differ from other motivators we may also call love? How does this unique form of love we call agape relate to service? **Facilitator:** You may guide your group to reading 1 Corinthians 13 for a description of agape love.

Question: Let’s apply the four steps Pastor Peppy showed us from our passage in John 13.

- 1) Jesus rose from supper. What do we have to get up from? Is there an activity we have to leave behind so we can serve?

- 2) Jesus removed his outer garment. What do we have to put off? What do we have to put off that may be hindering us from serving? Anger, resentment, unconfessed sin, perhaps?
- 3) Jesus tied a towel around his waist. What preparation do we have to make? Spiritually? Emotionally, Physically?
- 4) Jesus began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was wrapped around him. What should we begin doing? How do we even know what to begin doing?

Read: *Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father (Philippians 2:5-11).*

Question: "Have this mind...." exhorts us to share the same perspective toward servanthood as Christ Jesus. What lesson can we learn from this about keeping things in the right perspective? **Facilitator:** To be great, be a servant (Matthew 23:11). Be exalted by humbling yourself (Matthew 23:12). Save your life by losing it (Matthew 16:25).