

Small Group Discussion Guide – January 8, 2012

"Face2Face - Seeing Jesus Again for the First Time" ~ the Gospel of John

Pendulum Swings: Pendulum swings, better known as icebreakers or getting started questions, are just a fun way to kickoff your small group time together by going from the not so serious to deeper connecting times.

As you begin your Small Group this week ... *"Unfinished sentences ... ?"*

- ✓ One of my favorite childhood memories is ...
- ✓ The way that I need to be encourage today is ...
- ✓ At the beach you will most likely find me ...
- ✓ When I find a distance growing between a friend and me, I usually ...
- ✓ Having a relationship with God means ...

"Do You Understand?"

Intro: Pray together

Each week re-read **John 20:30-31** as a reminder of John's purpose in writing this account of Jesus' life. "... so that you may believe... and that by believing you may have LIFE in his name."

Readings: John 13 (entire chapter)

1. **John 13:1-4**
 - The statement has been made: *"When we know who we are, we can wash feet."* What thoughts, fears or insecurities in us prevent us from selflessly serving (i.e., washing feet or laying down our lives for) others?
 - What did Jesus know about himself that "allowed" him to serve selflessly?
 - What are the lessons that we can learn from Jesus that will allow us to serve selflessly?
2. **John 13:6-8** ... Peter did not want Jesus to wash his feet.
 - Why do you think Peter resisted having his feet washed?
 - Why is it more difficult to serve humbly or to be served humbly?
3. **John 13:7** ... *"You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand."*
 - After he puts his clothes back on and sits down (John 13:12), Jesus asks his disciples, *"Do you understand what I have done for you?"*
 - From this passage, and why do you think so, what exactly was it that Jesus did?
 - Since Jesus says, *"You should do as I have done for you"* (13:15), what is it exactly that we should be doing for one another?
4. In John 13:18-30, it's obvious that Jesus knew Judas was going to betray him. In John 13:36-38, he also knew Peter would deny him. Nevertheless, Jesus still laid down his life for Judas and Peter.
 - From this, what can we learn from Jesus?
 - Discuss some similar daily situations in which you could act like Jesus.
5. John 13:34-35: "... a **new** command I give to you: *Love one another.*" God's people were also told to love others in OT passages – i.e., Leviticus 19:18, 34; Deuteronomy 10:19 and others.
 - So, what is "new" about Jesus' command?
 - Discuss specific examples of how you can love others as Jesus loved you (see also John 15:12-13).