

Small Group Questions : New Year, New Command

ICEBREAKER

- Do you like being told what to do (or not do?)
- What makes a difference for you, in whether you follow an instruction or not? Some examples given on Sunday were: Is it clear? Do you think it makes sense? Will you gain something or will it cost you? Do you trust whoever is giving the instruction?

READ JOHN 13:31-35

- What is the command Jesus gives the disciples here?
- To help the disciples understand what 'love one another' means in practice, whose example does Jesus say they must follow?
- What does Jesus say will be a result of the disciples following this command? (verse 35)
- Why is following this command such a powerful witness?

LEARNING FROM THE EXAMPLE OF JESUS

- Within your group, take a moment for each one of you to think of a story from the Gospels where Jesus related to someone else in a memorable way. Share your stories with one another.
- What do each of these stories tell us about how Jesus did relationships?
- In what way does it make a difference that we have these 'worked examples' of how Jesus did relationships, rather than just his teaching?

READ JOHN 13:12-17

- What had Jesus just done for his disciples?
- Why was it shocking that Jesus should have been the one to wash their feet?
- Why does Jesus say he washed their feet?
- What might 'washing someone else's feet' look like for us today?
- What does Jesus say will happen to us if we do what Jesus wants? (verse 17)

READ JOHN 14:15-23

- What are the benefits Jesus says in these verses that we will receive if we keep his commands? (verses 16-17, verse 21, verse 23)

READ JOHN 15:10-13

- What does Jesus say will happen if we keep his commands? (verses 10 and 11)
- What does Jesus say is the greatest expression of love? (verse 13)
- How does Jesus go on to demonstrate this during the next few days after he said this?
- In the light of Jesus' example of showing the greatest love to us, what should our attitude be towards one another?

SPEND SOME TIME THANKING JESUS FOR HIS GREAT LOVE FOR US, ESPECIALLY HOW HE SHOWED THAT LOVE BY DYING FOR US.

SPEND SOME TIME ASKING HIM TO HELP US TO FOLLOW HIS EXAMPLE OF LOVE IN HOW WE RELATE TO OTHERS.