

TO GO

1. Without crossing any bounds of propriety, who in your life who is hard to love? What makes them so?
2. Read John 13:1-3. How does Jesus' awareness of his purpose and identity prepare him for what he's about to do? Why is it important that we're clear on who we are and what God has called *us* to do?
3. Read John 13:4-11. Why does Peter struggle to let Jesus wash his feet? Why does Jesus so strongly emphasize the need to wash Peter's feet? Why are we sometimes uncomfortable with allowing others to wash our feet (literally and symbolically)? Why just Peter's feet and not his whole body?
4. Read John 13:12-17. What argument does Jesus make for the disciples to follow his example? How does that argument remove excuses from anyone who is hesitant to wash someone else's feet?
5. Read John 3:18-20. How does Jesus' revelation demonstrate his love for the disciples? Read Psalm 41:4-9. What is the background for this Psalm? What is Jesus indicating by quoting it?
6. Read John 13:21-30. Why was it important for the disciples to understand what Judas was about to do? How does the fact that Jesus washes Judas' feet, even though he knows what's about to happen, demonstrate the magnitude of his love?
7. Read John 13:31-35. What new commandment does Jesus give the disciples? What about it is new for them? What impact will fulfilling this new commandment have on the world? How does this reflect the heart of God for the world that's been consistent throughout the Gospel of John?
8. Read John 13:36-38. How does Peter's example keep us from complacency when it comes to loving one another?
9. Identify who God is calling you to love today? Repent of your self-righteousness and ask God for courage and wisdom to know how to wash that person's feet in tangible ways. And ask God to do a world-transforming work through you and the others in the church as we love each other well in the name of Jesus.