

# Small Group Discussion Questions

Series: BELIEVE

Message: Lessons For Life

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## **Memory Verse:** John 13:34-35 NIV

"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

*The goal of these questions is to foster meaningful discussion and to encourage participants to reflect on God's Word and lead to heart transformation. Feel free to modify or expand upon these questions based on the dynamics and needs of your Small Group.*

**Big Idea:** Believe you cannot be clean in God's presence unless Jesus cleanses you. Let Him!

## **Read John 13:1-17**

1. Jesus' deep awareness of His purpose shaped how He spent His final hours (v 1). When you reflect on the brevity of life, how does it affect the way you interact with others? If you could keep this idea of living with gospel-centered purpose at the forefront of your mind, what do you think would change in your thoughts and behaviors?
2. Peter initially resists Jesus washing his feet, saying, "You shall never wash my feet" (v 8). Pride, confusion, and discomfort often surface when receiving grace. Why was Peter uncomfortable with being served by Jesus? Is it easier to serve others or to be served? Why? How might resistance to grace affect our relationship with God?
3. Jesus turns a private act of humility into a command for His followers. He expects them to do for others what He has just done for them (v 15). What are some present-day examples of how we can live this out? When is it hardest for you to serve others? How can serving others help open doors for the



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gospel or deeper discipleship?

4. Knowing is important, but blessing follows obedience (v 17). What can prevent you from acting on what you know Jesus calls you to do? What does it take to move from understanding to action?

### **Read John 13:18-30**

5. Jesus is displaying His foreknowledge for the benefit of His disciples. What Jesus shared with them should lead them to greater belief (v 19). How does knowing God is never caught off guard help you in your faith walk?
6. Jesus sends His followers as representatives of Himself and the Father (v 20). How should this shape the way we think about our identity as believers and people on mission? What barriers sometimes keep you from functioning as someone sent by God (e.g., fear, apathy, insecurity, busyness)?
7. As Jesus gives Judas the bread, Satan enters into him (v 28). The idea of demonic possession is a scary thought. What are some spiritual defenses God gives us to resist the enemy's influence (e.g., Ephesians 6:10–18)? How do you actively practice those in your daily life? What might be some modern-day signs that we are leaving spiritual doors open to enemy influence, whether in thought, habit, or attitude?
8. The author of the Gospel of John uses the word picture of “light” and “dark” at key moments in the gospel account. When Judas leaves, John ends this moment with “And it was night.” (v 30). What is the author trying to show us about what’s happening spiritually? How do you typically respond when God seems to allow “darkness” for a time?



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