SMITH FOR CHRIST

TEACHING THE WORD · WATCHING THE TIMES

REFLECTION JOURNAL · FIVE DAYS

John

Chapter 13

Loved to the End

MEMORY VERSE · JOHN 13:34

"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another."

THIS JOURNAL BELONGS TO _____

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

This week in John 13

On His last night before the cross, Jesus knelt with a towel and washed the feet of men who would fail Him — one of them the man who would betray Him. This week, let Him wash you first, and then pick up the towel yourself. His love did not quit on them, and it will not quit on you.

How to use this journal

1. Each day, read the passage slowly — out loud if you can.
2. Answer the **Observe** question from the text before you write what it means.
3. Write honestly on the **Reflect** questions. No one grades this.
4. Do the **Respond** step today, not someday. Say the memory verse.
5. Bring this journal to the group. The last page is for the table.

The full Deep Dive, the O·I·A study and the slides for this chapter are on the John study page.

WHERE I AM AS I START THIS CHAPTER

What is going on in my life right now that I want to bring to God this week?

DAY 1 OF 5

He Took a Towel

READ · JOHN 13:1–5

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

List everything verse 3 says Jesus knew. Then list, step by step, what He did in verses 4–5.

REFLECT

Jesus knew "the Father had given all things into His hands" (v. 3), and the next thing He did was get up and take a towel (v. 4). How does knowing who you are in God free you to serve instead of needing to look strong?

REFLECT

"Having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end" (v. 1). Where in your life do you need to hear that His love for you goes all the way to the end and does not quit halfway?

RESPOND — TODAY

Do one hidden, humble thing for someone today — the kind of job nobody notices — and tell no one.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (JOHN 13:34)

DAY 2 OF 5

Let Him Wash You

READ · JOHN 13:6–11

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What does Peter say in verse 8, and what does he say in verse 9? What does Jesus answer each time?

REFLECT

Peter said, “Never shall You wash my feet!” (v. 8). Where do you refuse to let Jesus — or a brother — do something for you, because being helped feels like weakness?

REFLECT

Jesus said, “He who has bathed needs only to wash his feet, but is completely clean” (v. 10). If you belong to Christ, what is the difference between needing to be saved again and needing your feet washed after a bad day?

RESPOND — TODAY

Bring Jesus one specific thing you picked up this week — a word, a habit, an attitude — and ask Him to wash it. Then thank Him that you are clean.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (JOHN 13:34)

DAY 3 OF 5

Do as I Did

READ · JOHN 13:12–20

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What question does Jesus ask in verse 12, and what does He tell them to do in verses 14–15? What does verse 17 say makes a man blessed?

REFLECT

"You also ought to wash one another's feet" (v. 14). Whose feet is Jesus asking you to wash this week — and whose would be the hardest to wash?

REFLECT

Verse 17 says, "If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them." What is one thing you already know God wants from you that you have not yet done?

RESPOND — TODAY

Name one man in your life and do one practical act of service for him before the week is out.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (JOHN 13:34)

DAY 4 OF 5

Out Into the Night

READ · JOHN 13:21–30

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

Who reclined on Jesus' bosom (v. 23)? What did Jesus give Judas, and what happened right after (vv. 26–27)? What are the last four words of verse 30?

REFLECT

Judas sat close to Jesus, kept the money box (v. 29), and still walked out. What is the difference between being near Jesus and belonging to Him?

REFLECT

The devil "put into the heart" of Judas to betray (v. 2) before Satan entered him (v. 27). Is there a small door in your heart — a secret, a resentment, a love of money — that you have been leaving open?

RESPOND — TODAY

Tell one trusted brother about any door you need to close, and ask him to pray with you about it.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (JOHN 13:34)

DAY 5 OF 5

Love as I Have Loved You

READ · JOHN 13:31–38

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What is the new commandment in verse 34, and what does Peter promise in verse 37?

REFLECT

“even as I have loved you” (v. 34). Who is one person you find hard to love that way, and what would loving him like Jesus look like this week?

REFLECT

Peter failed before morning (v. 38). What promise have you made to God in your own strength, and what does it mean that Jesus knew Peter’s weakness and kept loving him?

RESPOND — TODAY

Say the memory verse out loud, then do one act of love for the person you named.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (JOHN 13:34)

WHEN THE GROUP MEETS

Questions for the table

FOR THE GROUP · 1

Jesus washed the feet of Judas too (vv. 5, 11). What does that tell you about how He treats people who will hurt Him — and how He wants you to treat people who have hurt you?

FOR THE GROUP · 2

Verse 30 says Judas went out, "and it was night." Verse 31 says, "Now is the Son of Man glorified." How can the darkest night in a man's story become the place where God shows His glory?

FOR THE GROUP · 3

Peter and Judas both failed Jesus the same night (vv. 21, 38). What made the difference in where each man ended up, and what does that teach us about what to do after we fail?

MY PRAYER

Lord Jesus, You loved Your own to the end and knelt to wash their feet, so wash me today, and teach me to love my brothers the way You loved me, beginning with…

CUT OUT · CARRY IT · JOHN 13:34

"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another."