



Jesus Washes His Disciples' Feet

13 It was just before the Passover Festival. Jesus knew that the hour had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.

2 The evening meal was in progress, and the devil had already prompted Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus. 3 Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; 4 so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. 5 After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.

6 He came to Simon Peter, and said to him, "Please let me wash your feet." Peter said to him, "Lord, how dare you? I am not going to let you do that." Jesus replied, "You do not realize now what I am doing, but you will understand later." Peter said to him, "Lord, if you wash my feet, I will never let you do that."

Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me. Who has part with me, unless I wash you, will be clean only in the outside, but you will be unclean on the inside. Unless you are washed, you will not see the kingdom of God."

9 "Then, Lord," Simon Peter said, "not just my feet but my hands and my head as well."

10 Jesus answered, "Those who have bathed need only to wash their feet; their whole bodies are clean. And you are clean, though not every one of you." 11 For he knew who was going to betray him, and that was why he said nothing. He was clean, but one was not.

12 When he had finished washing their feet, he took off his clothes and returned to his ordinary robe. Then he stood up and asked them, "Do you understand what I have done for you?" They asked him, "Yes, Lord." "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. 14 Now that I have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. 15 I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. 16 Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. 17 Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.

Jesus Predicts His Betrayal

18 "I am not referring to all of you; I know those I have chosen. But this is to fulfill this passage of Scripture: 'He who shared my bread has turned[a] against me.'[b]

19 "I am telling you now before it happens, so that when it does happen you will believe that I am who I am. 20 Very truly I tell you, whoever accepts anyone I send accepts me; and whoever accepts me accepts the

one who sent me."

21 After he had said this, Jesus was troubled in spirit and testified, "Very truly I tell you, one of you is going to betray me."

22 His disciples stared at one another, at a loss to know which of them he meant. 23 One of them, the disciple whom Jesus loved, was reclining next to him. 24 Simon Peter motioned to this disciple and said, "Ask him which one he means."

25 The disciple reclining back against Jesus, he asked him, "Lord, who is it?"

26 Jesus answered, "It is the one to whom I will give this piece of bread." He took the piece of bread, broke it, and gave it to Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot. Satan entered him.

27 Jesus told him, "What you are about to do, do quickly." 28 But no one at the meal understood why Jesus said this to him. 29 Since Judas had charge of the money, some thought Jesus was telling him to buy what was needed for the festival, or to give something to the poor. 30 As soon as Judas had taken the money, he went out. And it was night.

31 Jesus predicts Peter's Denial

32 When he was gone, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man is glorified and God is glorified in him. If God is glorified in him, God will glorify the Son in himself, and will glorify him at once."

33 "My children will not love me, unless they love one another. Whoever does not love me does not keep my commandments, and so I will not visit him and receive him. 34 Whoever loves me will keep my commandments and will love one another. As I have loved the world, so I will love the one who keeps my commandments. 35 By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

36 Simon Peter asked him, "Lord, where are you going?"

Jesus replied, "Where I am going, you cannot follow now, but you will follow later."

37 Peter asked, "Lord, why can't I follow you now? I will lay down my life for you."

38 Then Jesus answered, "Will you really lay down your life for me? Very truly I tell you, before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times!

Jesus Comforts His Disciples

14 "Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God[d]; believe also in me. 2 My Father's house has

When All Is Said

Living a Life of Lasting Impact



PREPARATION

STUDY

Spend the week studying John 14:15–31. Consult the commentary provided and any additional study tools to enhance your preparation.

DETERMINE

Determine which discussion points and study questions will work best for your group.

PRAY

Pray for our pastors and this week's message, the upcoming group time, your group members, and their openness to God's Word.

LANDING POINT

When I receive the Spirit's help, He transforms and empowers me.



GROUP DISCUSSION

❑ **CONFIDENTIALITY** | What's said in the group stays in the group.

❑ **NO CROSS-TALK** | Be considerate of others as they share. Refrain from side conversations and texting during group time.

❑ **NO FIXING** | We are not in the group to fix each other. Jesus does that part.

❑ **SHARING** | Be sensitive to the amount of time you share. Don't talk too much or too little. Every person brings something valuable to the group.



As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

IN OVER YOUR HEAD

Have you ever tried to tackle a problem or do something on your own only to realize you're in way over your head? With confidence you think, *How hard could it be?* But then failed attempts frustrate you. Sometimes you're stubborn and keep at it, which only makes things worse. Other times, however, you admit, "Gosh, I can't do this on my own. I need help."

We often need help in life. Sometimes that means help learning how to manage your time, the best way to invest your money and save for retirement or fix the lawnmower. We can ask friends or watch videos online from experts and life-hackers. But what about your spiritual life? How do you get help in that area?

This week Jesus reveals to His disciples that He will send them another Helper—the Holy Spirit. He would be a Comforter, Counselor and Advocate for them. Well, Jesus did send the Helper, and today, He lives inside all believers. This week your group will discuss the next powerful word in this series—*receive*—and what it means to receive the Spirit's help.

🗣️: *Recall a time when you tried to do something and realized you needed help.*

🗣️: *Why is it sometimes difficult to receive help from others?*



Select 2–3 questions to discuss as a group.

LOVE THAT OBEYS

Jesus continues with the theme of love while speaking with His disciples. “If you love me, then you will obey me.” Then Jesus makes a promise: “And I will ask the Father to give you another Helper, the Spirit of truth. The world doesn’t receive Him, but you know Him because He will make His home in you.”

Then Jesus comforts His disciples. “I’m not going to leave you as orphans. I am about to leave you all. But, because I live, you also will live. It will all make sense in time. Trust me. For now, you have my commandments. If you love me, then you’ll obey them. That’s how you show your love for me and for the Father.”

READ: *John 14:15–31. Split into pairs and retell the story in your own words.*

Q: *What connection is Jesus making between love and obedience here? Where do you see that connection in your life?*

TEACH AND REMIND

Jesus continues to explain more about this mysterious Helper. “The Helper is the Holy Spirit. The Father will send Him to you. He will teach you and remind you about all that you’ve learned from me. I don’t want you to be afraid or troubled by what’s going to happen to me or to you. I give you my peace, which is real peace, and that’s enough for any circumstance you’re about to face.”

Then Jesus directs His disciples’ attention to God’s plan. “The Father gave me a mission to complete. I’m telling you this now, so that later you’ll remember and believe. The ruler of this world is coming for me, but I’m not afraid. I will obey the Father so that the world may know how deep the Father’s love is.”

Q: How were you taught to understand the Holy Spirit? How is that similar or different than what Jesus says?

Q: How does Jesus encourage His disciples at the end of the passage? How does it encourage you?



LIVE

Select 2–3 questions from this section to answer.

The Bible tells us that the primary role of the Holy Spirit is to transform and empower God’s people. The Spirit was active at creation and in the events of the Old Testament. Today He continues His work to:

- Draw people to Jesus.
- Convict them of sin.
- Bring men and women to repent of sin and believe the gospel.

But the Spirit’s work doesn’t stop at salvation. The Spirit continues His work in believers. Jesus explains specific ways the Spirit helps us.

YOUR ADVOCATE

Jesus calls the Spirit “the Helper.” The Greek word he uses is *parakletos*, which can be translated as “counselor.” Today in our culture, we associate the word “counselor” with someone like a therapist. But that’s not really what Jesus has in mind here. The Spirit is more like a legal counselor for believers. He’s your Advocate. He gives you the facts of a case, He defends you and acts as your representative to others.

Jesus calls this Helper or Advocate “the Spirit of truth.” The Spirit works by revealing God’s truth to you and applying it to your life. Life is often mysterious and confusing. We are sinful and forgetful. We need someone to help us remember who God is, what He has already done for us and what He will do for us in the future. The Spirit lovingly puts you into the light of God’s truth. Only there can your heart be changed to love and obey God more.¹

👤: *What are some practical ways to guard yourself from forgetting God's character and His work in your life?*

👤: *Think of a problem you're facing now. Pray and ask the Spirit to reveal God's truth in this situation.*

FREE FROM WORRY AND ANXIETY

Let's not forget Jesus' purpose here to comfort His disciples. He knows they are troubled by all that He's saying. After all, Jesus is speaking plainly about what's going to happen to them and it sounds troubling. But Jesus explains how the Spirit will free them from being worried and anxious in those times.

Jesus' love is:

- *Indwell believers.* Through Jesus, the Spirit makes His home in believers. You're never alone because you always have the Spirit with you.
- *Remind them of Jesus' teaching.* The Spirit opens your heart to understand what Jesus taught and know how to apply it in life. The Spirit will always point you to Jesus and His person and work.
- *Give them real peace.* The world can't give the kind of peace that Jesus can. This is a peace that knows your sins are forgiven and you will never be condemned for them. This is a peace that rests in the truth that Jesus is King of kings, and He reigns in your heart and over His creation.
- *Encourage them with hope.* Jesus reminds His disciples that the ultimate victory is His. It may look like sin is getting the victory in your life. You may struggle and often fail. But there is hope. Jesus won the victory over sin and evil at the cross, and the Spirit is working in you to overcome sin and evil in your life.²

Jesus' comfort to His disciples is our comfort today as believers. The Spirit lives in you to point you to Jesus and His new way of living and give you real peace and hope in any circumstance.

👤: *Share about a time when the Spirit comforted you.*

👤: *Where in your life do you need the Spirit to give you hope and encouragement?*



LEAD

Select 1 question from this section to ask your group.

THE HEART OF OBEDIENCE

Jesus isn't calling for obedience that comes from a sense of obligation or coercion. Often, that kind of obedience is typically based on guilt or feeling threatened. The kind of obedience Jesus is talking about comes from a heart that has been transformed by the Spirit. It's a heart that has been changed to find joy and delight in obedience. Why? Because obedience brings us closer to the Father's heart. Receiving the Spirit's help allows you to experience what God wants to give you through His Spirit.

Q: *Think of a metaphor or word picture that illustrates love in obedience.*

Q: *How would you live differently if your default position in life was to receive what the Spirit says?*



PRAY

Thank God the Father for His master plan. Praise God for seeing that you needed help and He sent His Son Jesus to overcome your biggest problem—sin. Thank Jesus for sending the Spirit to be your Helper, Advocate and Comforter at all times.



FOLLOW UP

Midway through this week, send a follow-up email to your group with some or all of the following:

- Read Romans 8:26–30 and reflect on how the Spirit helps us in our weakness.
- Ask the group to share any stories or lessons learned where they see God at work in their lives.



THE SPIRIT'S INDWELLING “God was ‘with’ believers under the old covenant, not least by dwelling among them in the temple, sometimes appearing in a pillar of cloud or fire, and coming upon individuals by his Spirit. After Jesus’ death and resurrection, the Spirit will come upon believers and permanently indwell them (v. 23; 7:39).”³ We have something no believer in the Old Testament ever had—the Spirit of God living inside us.

TRUST THE FATHER “The Holy Spirit teaches us by strengthening our faith to trust the Father. We have no competence in ourselves for Christian living, parenting, teaching, or leading. Second Corinthians 3 could not be clearer: ‘Such confidence as this is ours through Christ before God. Not that we are competent in ourselves to claim anything for ourselves, but our competence comes from God. He has made us competent as ministers of a new covenant—not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life’ (2 Cor. 3:4–6).”⁴

ENDNOTES:

1. Andrew Paterson, *Opening Up John's Gospel, Opening Up Commentary* (Leominster: Day One Publications, 2010), 123–124.
2. *Ibid.*, 124–126.
3. D. A. Carson, “The Gospels and Acts,” in *NIV Zondervan Study Bible: Built on the Truth of Scripture and Centered on the Gospel Message*, ed. D. A. Carson (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2015), 2184.
4. Kenneth O. Gangel, *John*, vol. 4, *Holman New Testament Commentary* (Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 2000), 270.