

I Am Most Like Jesus When...

Discussion Guide

Week of March 5 - **I Serve** (washing feet)

Scripture verse: John 13:1-17; Matthew 5:3

LEADER NOTE: As the leader, your role is to equip each group member to become a disciple of Jesus. One habit every disciple learns is prayer. Give the group guidance on how you would like them to pray for this group meeting. Ask a group member to open with prayer. **Example:** “Mike, would you please ask the Lord to lead our hearts closer to Jesus while we look at the Scriptures today.”

MAIN IDEA

Pride is a characteristic that is prevalent today. We regularly celebrate people who are considered the GOAT—an often-used acronym that means the “greatest of all time”. We are proud of ourselves, our spouses, our children, our homes, our jobs, our income, our cars, our favorite sports team, the college we attended... there is no end to the people and things of which we are proud.

OPENING QUESTION: What does it mean to be proud, and how can that either help or hinder us in becoming a disciple of Jesus?

LOOKING BACK: Becoming more like Christ is a process. The expectation of transformation does not happen directly after we decide to follow Jesus. Scripture underscores this reality...

Jesus died for ALL our sins... past, present and future! And becoming like Jesus involves our effort to understanding his character. One central way we do this is through reading the Scriptures, where Jesus' character is clearly painted. Go around the circle and ask group members to share how they are currently spending time in God's Word.

LEADER NOTE: If your group members are having difficulty staying in the Word, encourage them to find another group member to set up some accountability. Challenge the pair to set up a plan to read the same Scripture throughout the week and to call or text one another at a set time each day to keep one another accountable to reading God's word and working together through what Scripture reveals each day.

LOOKING UP: We've all experienced a bad teacher or subpar leader we didn't like. On the contrary, this was not the case with Jesus, who was considered both a great teacher and leader. What are the characteristics of Jesus that made him good at teaching and leading?

Hopefully the group comes to see how Jesus taught and led by example. He showed them what he expected by modeling the behavior first. Even though He had every right to proclaim himself the GOAT, He didn't take that approach or posture but, instead, he humbled Himself to become a servant. Discuss what it means to be humble. Consider people of royalty or justices seated on the Supreme Court or anyone sitting in a seat in Congress. What is the expected behavior or observed behavior of someone who sits in such a seat? Compare that to Jesus' attitude.

Before reading the Scripture, ask a different member of the group to pray for God's wisdom and insights as you study together. After reading the Scripture together, ask questions 1 and 2 below, giving your group time to respond.

LEADER TIP: While asking the 4 questions practice the art of allowing the silence to prompt your members to share their thoughts. Sometimes silence has to get a little uncomfortable before some group

members will talk. Ask individual group members by name what stood out the most while reading the Scripture passage. Ask that same question a few times... waiting silently. Repeat or rephrase the question as necessary. When it seems no one has further insights to share, move on to the final two questions... allowing the group to respond to questions 3 and 4 below.

READ PASSAGE:
John 13:1-17
Answer the first 2 questions in the center

1. What stood out to you most?
2. What was challenging or hard to understand?
3. What does this teach us about people?
4. What does this teach us about God?

RE-READ SAME PASSAGE out of another bible translation then answer the last 2 questions

LOOKING FORWARD: Jesus challenges us here to consider serving others out of LOVE for them, not out of obligation. It takes courage and vulnerability to humble oneself enough to see the needs of others and jump in to serve regardless of the cost to us. As we count the costs of serving what holds a person back from serving others the way Jesus served his disciples?

Where in the marketplace can you serve someone who is far from God but is close to you? How will you plan to serve the person God lays on your heart?

Ask a group member to pray for God to reveal a family member, co-worker, or neighbor who would benefit from a random act of kindness from you this week. Then, after the Holy Spirit reveals who you should serve... make a plan to serve this person this week.

Intentionally plan to serve your spouse and children with one loving act of kindness as a practice before serving someone outside of your household.

Who else should you serve this week as an act of worship to God? Possibly a neighbor? A person in the community? A stranger?