SMITH FOR CHRIST · TEACHING THE WORD · WATCHING THE TIMES

GROUP WORKSHEET · OBSERVE · INTERPRET · APPLY

John 13

Loved to the End

NAME _____ DATE _____

KEY VERSE · JOHN 13:34–35 · NASB

> *"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. "By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."*

The last evening before the cross. The Lord of all takes a towel, a friend walks out into the night, and Jesus gives a new commandment. Watch what Jesus knows in this chapter and what He does with it.

BEFORE YOU ANSWER

1. Read John 13 straight through, then a second time slowly with a pen.
2. Mark what you see: God · commands · repeated words · sin / warnings · promises · time / place.
3. Answer from the text first. Write the verse number beside every answer.

COUNT THE KEY WORDS

Find each word in John 13. Tally it and note the verses. What does John keep coming back to?

WORD	HOW MANY?	VERSES
love / loved		
feet		
wash / washed		
betray		
know / knew		
glorified		

JOHN 13:1–11 The Towel

1 OBSERVE

What did Jesus know as the supper began (13:1, 3)? What did He do next (13:4–5)?

2 OBSERVE

What did Peter say first, how did Jesus answer, and what did Peter say then (13:8–9)?

3 INTERPRET

Jesus says, "He who has bathed needs only to wash his feet, but is completely clean" (13:10). What is the difference between the bath and the foot washing for a believer? Read 1 John 1:9.

4 APPLY

Peter's pride said "Never" and then "everything." Where does your pride refuse to be served by Jesus?

JOHN 13:12–20 The Example

5 OBSERVE

What question does Jesus ask, and what does He say they ought to do (13:12–15)? What promise follows (13:17)?

6 WEIGH THE TEACHERS

Sproul: "Only a gentile slave could be required to do such a menial task." Henry: "no miracle, unless we call it a miracle of humility." Is foot washing an ordinance for churches today? What do all four teachers agree is commanded?

7 APPLY

Whose “feet” do you need to wash this week, a task beneath you for someone who does not deserve it?

JOHN 13:21–30 The Night

8 OBSERVE

What did Jesus announce, and how did He identify the betrayer (13:21, 26)?

9 OBSERVE

What happened after Judas took the morsel, and what does John say as he leaves (13:27, 30)?

10 INTERPRET

The devil put the betrayal in Judas’ heart (13:2), Satan entered him (13:27), and Scripture foretold it (13:18). Who is responsible?

JOHN 13:31–38 The Commandment

11 OBSERVE

What is the new commandment, what is the standard, and what will it show (13:34–35)?

12 WEIGH THE TEACHERS

What is new in the new commandment? Sproul: "There is nothing new about that commandment"; the newness is "the context of the betrayal." Spurgeon: new in extent, motive and nature. What does "as I have loved you" add to "as yourself"?

13 OBSERVE

What does Peter promise, and what does Jesus answer (13:37–38)?

14 INTERPRET

Peter and Judas were both warned and both failed. Guzik: "Peter's denial was terrible, but it wasn't the same as what Judas did." What is the real difference between them?

15 APPLY

Love one another "even as I have loved you." Name one brother you find hard to love, and one specific way you will love him like that this week.

WORD STUDY The Greek behind the English

16 WORD *telos* · G5056 · the end, the goal

"He loved them to the end" (13:1). Compare "It is finished" (19:30), from the same root. What does "to the end" mean for how Jesus loves you?

17 WORD *hypodeigma* · G5262 · an example, a pattern to copy

Jesus says, "I gave you an example" (13:15). What makes His example different from a good role model?

PUT IT TOGETHER The chapter as a whole

The theme. In one or two sentences of your own, what is John 13 about?

Jesus. What does this chapter show you about who Jesus is that you want to remember?

This week. What one thing will you do because of this chapter, and which brother will you tell?

Around the table. Prayer requests and what the other men saw that you missed.