

**Gathering Question:** Share with the members of your life group one time when you most felt served by someone in the church. Describe a time when you most felt like a servant.

## Wash One Another's Feet

Servant and leader – the two words seem not to go together, at least in this fallen world. Jesus demonstrated a different way of leading. He told his disciples that they were not to lead like the Gentiles did by lording it over others. Real leaders in his Kingdom were servants of all.

Jesus faced a dilemma. Even though he had taught this to his servants over and over, they still didn't get it. They continued to jockey for position. They were concerned about who would sit on the right and the left of Jesus in the Kingdom. They argued about who was the greatest disciple. And on the night before his death, they entered the upper room with dirty feet because not a single one of the disciples of Jesus were willing to be servants. Incredible!

Enter Jesus. He knew who he was, the Son of God. He knew that he was getting ready to give his life for the sins of the world. He knew where he was going. He must have taken one look at those guys sitting there with dirty feet and started shaking his head.

He took off his outer garment, wrapped a towel around himself and started washing feet. Just imagine the shock and consternation of the disciples. How uncomfortable they must have felt. The Son of God, the Messiah, was washing their dirty feet!

Peter drew back his feet and exclaimed, “Never!” Jesus simply said to him that if you really want to be a part of what I am doing, then you must allow me to wash your feet. Peter relented and Jesus finished.

“Do you understand what I have done for you?” Jesus asked. I really don't think they did. In fact, it might have never really occurred to them until after his ascension into heaven. Jesus demonstrated a new way to lead. These men were to be the leaders in the Kingdom. Jesus opened a new door dominated by love.

**Read:** Matthew 20:20-28; John 13:1-17; 34, 35

### Discuss:

1. Discuss some ways you can wash feet without really washing feet. Would there be an occasion when a good foot washing service would be in order? Explain.
2. What does love have to do with this? Is it possible to wash feet without love? Explain.
3. Write down the name of a person who needs a foot washing at Meadowlark. Think of some way to wash his or her feet this week.