

BIG IDEA

In order to BLESS our neighbor, Jesus invites us to serve.

TIPS ON LEADING DISCUSSION

1. The icebreaker is designed so anyone can answer the question without having to think about too much. Make this fun and light-hearted.
2. The opening thought will introduce the group to the main point of the conversation.
3. The first verse in the narrative is packed with ideas. The Passover feast was the height of traditional Jewish feasts, and Jesus is applying its meaning to himself. Somehow this feast, Jesus serving them, and the forthcoming crucifixion is the way Jesus is serving and giving himself for his people. We also see that the time had come, which is the moment Jesus' ministry has been building all along. Now Jesus will show the full extent of his love to his disciples.
4. The job of washing feet was reserved for the lowliest of slaves. Some scholars assert that Jewish slaves were exempt from this task. Jesus and his disciples would have reclined at the table with their feet to the outside of their gathering. That means Jesus would have not only humiliated himself with this action, but would have also put himself outside the circle. Those two observations could make for interesting discussion and Jesus and the way the church has been called to follow his example.
5. Conclude the meeting by asking the group members who and how they can BLESS others. Challenge the group to pray and look for ways to serve and then to share the next time you meet.