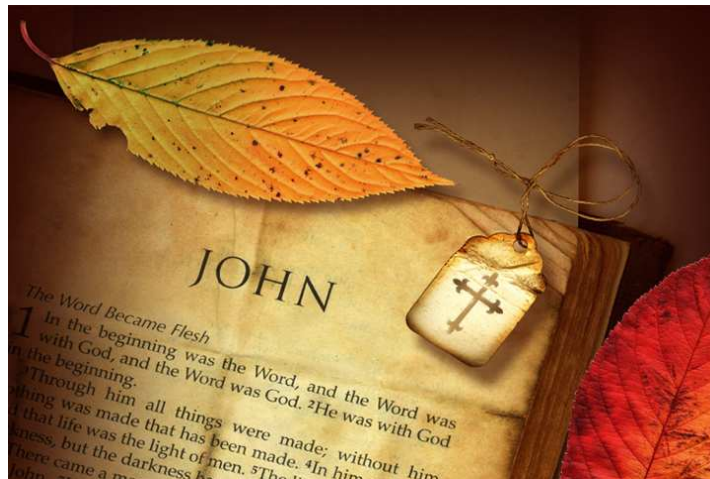


Fall 2010 Sermon Series:

# *The Gospel of John*

## *Week #4*

### Discussion Guide



October 2/3, 2010

### *“Jesus as our Mentor”*

Pastor Bruce Humphrey  
John 14:8-12, John 13:3-15

<http://www.rbcpc.org/about-us/sermons/>

**Next week:** October 16/17  
*“Stirring Curiosity”* Pastor Bruce Humphrey  
John 4:7-15

**The Gospel of John**  
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**Scripture References**

Read and reflect on the following scripture:

**John 14:8-12**

Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied." <sup>9</sup> Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? <sup>10</sup> Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. <sup>11</sup> Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. <sup>12</sup> Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father.

*Notes:*

**John 13:3-15**

Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, <sup>4</sup> got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. <sup>5</sup> Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him. <sup>6</sup> He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" <sup>7</sup> Jesus answered, "You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand." <sup>8</sup> Peter said to him, "You will never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no share with me." <sup>9</sup> Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" <sup>10</sup> Jesus said to him, "One who has bathed does not need to wash, except for the feet, but is entirely clean. And you are clean, though not all of you." <sup>11</sup> For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, "Not all of you are clean." <sup>12</sup> After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, he said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? <sup>13</sup> You call me Teacher and Lord-- and you are right, for that is what I am. <sup>14</sup> So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. <sup>15</sup> For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you.

*Notes:*

**The Gospel of John**  
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**Discussion Guide**

**Scripture**

1. Read the John 14:8-12 scripture. Why do you think it was so hard for the disciples to believe that the Father was in Jesus and Jesus was in the Father?
2. Why does Jesus introduce “works” into a passage describing who He is?
3. What “greater works” is Jesus referring to?
4. What does it say to you about the value Jesus has for the things you *do*?
5. Read the John 13:3-15 scripture. Jesus knew He had very little time left to teach the disciples. Why did he choose the act of foot washing to demonstrate servant leadership?
6. What cultural barriers prevented Peter from readily accepting Jesus’ offer to wash his feet?
7. Why does Peter change his mind?
8. What authority does Jesus give the disciples through this act of servant leadership? What authority does He give *you*?

**Sermon**

Key Words: ***story – mentor – communion - love***

*“Most followers of Jesus do not see themselves as being Jesus to others.” Bruce Humphrey*

9. What barriers might prevent people from seeing themselves “like Jesus?”
10. Why does Jesus get up from the table and demonstrate the act of being a servant? Why doesn’t He just tell the disciples what they should do?
11. How is this different from the way the disciples have learned about “acts of faith” before?
12. Why is foot washing an act of love?
13. In the story of Dr. Seigel, what action, or perspective, does he describe that would suggest “being Jesus to others?”
14. How might the response from the cancer patients change your view on miraculous healing?
15. What message is Jesus trying to convey to the sick or injured when He heals? What is He saying to those witnessing the healing?

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**Life Applications**

**Personal:**

1. Imagine yourself in the room with Jesus and the disciples at the time of the foot washing.
2. How do you think you would have reacted to Jesus' offer to wash your feet?
3. Knowing what you know today about Jesus' intentions for servant leaders, do you think you would allow Him to wash your feet?
4. What cultural, or emotional barriers are preventing you from allowing others to serve you?
5. How do you express gratitude toward someone who has "washed your feet?"
6. What does this tell you about how you might go about serving others?

**Small Group:**

1. Share a time you observed the humble service of someone else. How did this inspire you?
2. Share a time you found it difficult to accept help from someone. Why was it difficult for you?
3. Go around the room and share as many ways as possible for Christians today to "wash each others feet."
4. Have each person pick one way and commit to doing it at least once in the coming week. Be prepared to report back to the group next week.

**Prayer:**

1. Pray for Jesus to give you the humility to serve others this week.
2. Ask Him to show you someone who especially needs your service.
3. Thank Jesus for the people who care for you – contemplate how your gracious acceptance of their help can be a gift to them.



Further resources for study of the Gospel of John:  
*John – Life Change Series*, a NAVPRESS Bible Study.  
*Book of John*, Life Lessons with Max Lucado  
Many other resources are available in the RBCPC Library – check it out!