

what if it's true?

REASONS TO BELIEVE

WEEK 2 - LOVE OVERVIEW

One of the most fundamental truths about humanity is that we all yearn to be loved. To be accepted despite our flaws. To be seen. And yet so many in our world experience an absence of genuine love or a twisted, selfish approximation of love which falls far short of what we know in our guts is possible. Into this core longing, John's gospel speaks a profound truth: that Jesus offers the very love we've been looking for. On the night before his crucifixion, John tells us Jesus "loved his disciples... to the very end" (John 13:1). How? By taking the position of a servant and washing his disciples' feet. The God of the universe, who knew his own creations better than they knew themselves, stooped down to serve them! And he continues to do so today. This profound self-giving love has the power to transform our very identities and give us a reason to love others in return.

He had loved his disciples during his ministry on earth, and now he loved them to the very end.

John 13:1

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Were you familiar with Di Vinci's famous painting of "The Last Supper"? What stood out to you about this painting? How does this painting not tell the whole story?
2. Read [John 13:1-5](#).
 - a. Describe the custom of washing someone's feet in Jesus' time - Who did that? What was the purpose, etc.
 - b. What is the significance of Jesus taking off his robe? (see [Philippians 2:5-7](#))
 - c. Why did Jesus wash the disciples' feet?
 - d. Can you think of something similar to footwashing that we do today?
3. Read [John 13:6-15](#) and [13:33-35](#).
 - a. What do you think Jesus was trying to tell Peter?
 - b. Why did Jesus ask the disciples to do as he did?
4. Read [John 13:21-26](#). If Jesus knew that Judas would later betray him, why did he still wash Judas' feet?
5. What is *real love*, in your opinion? (See also [John 3:16](#), [1 John 3:16](#), and [Romans 5:8](#).)
6. Have you ever experienced a situation with a person who was an inaccurate representation of the love of Jesus, as Maron did?
7. What could you do to show someone *real love*?
8. Maron asked us to consider (or reconsider), "What if the love of Jesus is the very thing you inwardly desire the most?"

RESOURCES

Broken Signposts: How Christianity Makes Sense of the World, by N.T. Wright