

Introduction:

1. When have you received poor customer service? Why was it such a bad experience?
2. When have you been pleasantly surprised by someone serving you very well when you did not expect it?

Understanding:

3. Read Verse 1 describing the love Jesus had for the disciples, loving them all the way to the cross. Considering what the scriptures say about the disciples, how much was this love based on their success at obeying Jesus? How does this relate to our own success at obeying Jesus?
4. Read Philippians 2: 5-8. Jesus Christ is Almighty God. Yet what attitude is expressed here? And how should that affect how we serve one another?
5. Why did the foot washing happen in the middle of the meal, instead of, as per custom, the beginning of the meal?
6. Some churches actually have foot washing ceremonies regularly. What do you think are the pros and cons of having these ceremonies?
7. Read Luke 22:24-30. What was the battle between the disciples? How does that connect to the foot washing? What are some of the contrasts here between who the world says is greatest and who Jesus says should be the greatest? What does all this have to do with us?
8. At the Passover meal, lamb would be eaten. But when the disciples gathered in that room, there is no mention of anybody bringing the lamb! Explain why this would be. Read Genesis 22:7-8 where Abraham's son wonders where the lamb is. How does verse 8 compare to what is happening at the Passover meal with Jesus and the disciples?
9. In the light of this week's teaching, how biblical is the following quote: "Leadership is the art of getting someone else to do something you want done because he wants to do it."
10. Read Titus 3:5. How can we be secure? And how much does our security depend on our performance?
11. What will happen if you try to fulfill Jesus' serving mandate without having first allowed yourself to be washed by Christ?

Application:

12. Think of those whom you find most difficult to serve, whether it's someone our society would say are *socially below* us, or because you think they just don't deserve to be served? Pray for God to change your heart about these people. Then, what action can you take to serve them?
13. This application is copied from the Chapel's "LENTEN GUIDE":
 READ: John 13:1-17
 REFLECT: Why is having a servant's heart essential to following Christ? Why is it so important to focus more on others than on ourselves?
 FAST: Give up one personal pleasure this week (e.g. TV) and replace that time with acts of service. (For more information about serving, contact serve@jacksonvillechapel.org)