

**A Servant's Heart:
Willing****Background**

- John's story takes place in the Middle East, which was a very dusty place! People wore sandals and feet were very dirty. It was an important part of hospitality to have one's feet washed when entering a house and traditionally it was the role of the household servants to wash people's feet.

Observe: What's there?

- Look for repeated words, comparisons, contrasts, and cause and effect.
- Note characters, relationships, locations, time, actions, and reactions.
- Imagine yourself in the story. What do you see, hear, and smell?

Interpret: What does it mean?

- Develop some questions based on your observations. What stirs your curiosity?
- Imagine the perspective of the people in the scene.
- Answer your questions from the text and context.
- Why is this passage or story here? Try to summarize it in one sentence.

John 13:3-17

—— **PRAY** (to lead into the study)

Start with Introduction

- If there are any new people, have everyone introduce themselves!
- Ask a transition question:

What are the tasks everyone avoids in the hospital or during clinical?

(Leave space to think, have 2-3 people share)

Background Leader's Notes

- Go through the background/context of the passage, keep it brief.
- State the transition to next part of the study: reading out loud, reading silently, then observations.

—— **READ OUT LOUD** (go around, have each person read 2-3 verses)

- Transition: Explain observations and say what to look for during silent reading.

—— **READ SILENTLY** (~10 minutes, adjust as needed)

Observe Leader's Notes

- Have people list observations, try to avoid answering questions right now. The goal is for people to list observe and discuss before interpreting.
- Transition: Ask if there are any remaining observations/questions, then start interpretation (answering discussion questions).

Interpret: Leader's Notes

- Go through the questions one at a time, try to have multiple people answer the question with their ideas.
- When done with questions, ask people to silently summarize the main point of the passage in 1-2 sentences (Give 2-3 minutes to write it down)

Leader's Main Point: Jesus gives an example in John on what sacrificial love should look like, even if it means doing uncomfortable tasks. In Galatians Paul describes practical steps to prepare ourselves to serve others.

—— **SHARE MAIN POINT** (Rapid-fire share around the circle)

Application Leader's Notes

- Read the application question out loud, allow for ~5 minutes to think and write applications down.

Think about a way you could serve people by doing a task that people don't want to do. What would it look like to do this in a hospital? At school? A hard job? Determine what you would need to serve people in that way this week.

- Have people share as willing (You can write them down to ask about later!)

—— **PRAY** (to exit the study)