

MODGNIEK

Week 2 Discussion Guide



Icebreaker

Think about a time someone did something unexpectedly kind for you, something you didn't ask for and didn't see coming. Maybe it was small, maybe it was significant. What happened, and how did it make you feel?

Read

John 13:1-17, Matthew 7:12 & Romans 12:10 (Optional: Have your group read the passage in two different versions. Then have the group retell the passage in their own words.)

Discuss

The kingdom Jesus invites us into operates differently from the kingdoms we're used to. Our instinct is to look out for ourselves, but Jesus turns that upside down. Instead of asking, "What about me?" He calls us to look outward and treat others with the same care, patience, kindness, and dignity we hope to receive.

- **Matthew 7:12 is called the Golden Rule, and most people already know it. Why do you think something so universally agreed upon is so consistently difficult to actually live out?**
- **What do you think our culture teaches us about looking out for ourselves? How does Jesus' command challenge that mindset?**
- **Think about your closest relationships. Where is it easiest for you to put others first? Where is it hardest? Why?**

John 13 gives us a picture of what "others first" looks like. Jesus knew who He was, where He came from, and what was ahead. Yet He chose to get up, pick up a towel, and serve His disciples. Jesus didn't just teach others-first; He modeled it.

- **Verse 3 says Jesus knew that the Father had given all things into His hands. Why do you think John includes that detail immediately before Jesus begins washing feet? What does that tell us about humility?**
- **Jesus served even when the people He was serving didn't necessarily deserve it or appreciate it. How does that challenge the way we sometimes approach serving?**

Putting others first isn't meant to be an occasional act of kindness. Paul describes it as a way of living: devoted to one another, loving one another, and honoring one another above ourselves.

- **What does it practically look like to "delight in honoring each other?"**
- **Which comes more naturally to you: encouraging, serving, or honoring others? Which stretches you most?**
- **What might change in our church if we regularly asked, "How can I help?" instead of waiting to be asked?**

Application

This week choose one person to encourage, one person to serve and one person to honor. Hold each other accountable to this.

- **ENCOURAGE: Who could you build up with your words?**
- **SERVE: Who could you help with your time, gifts, and/or resources?**
- **HONOR: Who has invested in you that you could thank or recognize?**

Prayer

Spend time in prayer asking God to reveal the areas where you tend to put yourself first and for help to follow Jesus' example by living a life that encourages, serves, and honors others.