

# Discussion Questions

July 16, 2023

## B.L.E.S.S. - Serve



### 1. Read John 13:1-17

Discuss the significance of Jesus washing the disciples feet.

John is the only Gospel writer who includes Jesus' command to wash one another's feet instead of Jesus' command to remember him in communion. Why do you think this is so important to John? Why do we take seriously the command for communion, but not so much this command to serve one another?

### 2. Read Luke 10:25-37

Have someone retell the story in their own words.

Discuss what you think the "expert in religious law" would have taken away from this encounter.

By Jesus' definition - who are our neighbors and how are we called to serve them today?

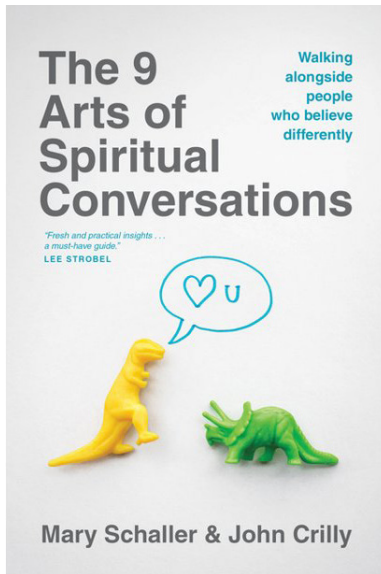
### 3. Share, if appropriate, where you struggle to show compassion and instead move towards anger/judgment or fear/avoidance in dealing with "neighbors" around us.

### 4. Discuss the significance of not just "swinging for the fences" and trying to "convert" someone, but instead doing the more simple things, serving "a cup of cold water."

### 5. Share examples of practical things the Lord is leading you to do in serving those around you. This would include things you have done recently as well as what you are feeling led to do in the near future.

**Matthew 10:42 (NLT)**

*And if you give even a cup of cold water to one of the least of my followers, you will surely be rewarded.*



What if some simple steps helped us all get in the game? What if the little stuff counts? The little things seemed to matter to Jesus. He heartily applauded the widow who gave the two tiny coins she had to offer. He blessed and multiplied the little loaves and fish from a boy's lunch until they fed thousands of people. He said, "If anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones who is my disciple, truly I tell you, that person will certainly not lose their reward"

In Jesus' view, an activity as small as giving someone a cup of cold water is so important that a reward is associated with it. In today's evangelistic economy, little things don't seem to count for much. But in reality, it's the modern-day "cups of cold water"—like paying attention to people, listening to them, and praying for them—that bring refreshment and give others a taste of Jesus' love.

**John 13:1 (NLT)**

*Before the Passover celebration, Jesus knew that his hour had come to leave this world and return to his Father. He had loved his disciples during his ministry on earth, and now he loved them to the very end.*

**John 13:4–5 (NLT)**

*So [Jesus] got up from the table, took off his robe, wrapped a towel around his waist, and poured water into a basin. Then he began to wash the disciples' feet, drying them with the towel he had around him.*

**John 13:12–17 (NLT)**

*After washing their feet, he put on his robe again and sat down and asked, "Do you understand what I was doing? You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and you are right, because that's what I am. And since I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, **you ought to wash each other's feet.** I have given you an example to follow. **Do as I have done to you.** tell you the truth, slaves are not greater than their master. Nor is the messenger more important than the one who sends the message. Now that you know these things, **God will bless you for doing them.***

**Luke 10:27 (NLT)**

*'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your strength, and all your mind.' And, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' "*

**Luke 10:28 (NLT)**

*"Right!" Jesus told him. "Do this and you will live!"*

### **Luke 10:30–37 (NLT)**

*Jesus replied with a story: "A Jewish man was traveling from Jerusalem down to Jericho, and he was attacked by bandits. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him up, and left him half dead beside the road.*

*By chance a priest came along. But when he saw the man lying there, he crossed to the other side of the road and passed him by. A Temple assistant walked over and looked at him lying there, but he also passed by on the other side.*

*Then a despised Samaritan came along, and when he saw the man, he felt compassion for him.*

*Going over to him, the Samaritan soothed his wounds with olive oil and wine and bandaged them. Then he put the man on his own donkey and took him to an inn, where he took care of him. The next day he handed the innkeeper two silver coins, telling him, 'Take care of this man. If his bill runs higher than this, I'll pay you the next time I'm here.'*

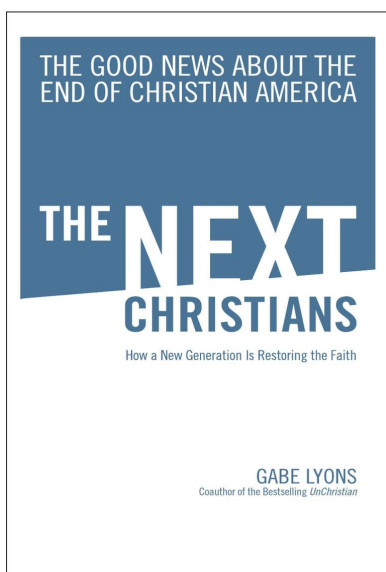
*"Now which of these three would you say was a neighbor to the man who was attacked by bandits?" Jesus asked. The man replied, "The one who showed him mercy." Then Jesus said, "Yes, now go and do the same."*

### **John 13:35**

*By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."*

### **Billy Graham**

"Back when we did these big crusades in football stadiums and arenas, the Holy Spirit was really moving—and people were coming to Christ as we preached the Word of God," the evangelist said. "But today, I sense something different is happening. I see evidence that the Holy Spirit is working in a new way. He's moving through people where they work and through one-on-one relationships to accomplish great things. They are demonstrating God's love to those around them, not just with words, but in deed."



Today's typical outsiders aren't likely to be reached through persuasive argument but instead through first experiencing an authentic Christian: someone who's willing to roll up his or her sleeves and restore alongside them...