

QUESTION 6

Examples:

- a) It enables us to understand more of the humility of Christ and has parallels with Paul's hymn in Philippians 2:6-8.
- b) It also challenges us to humility in the light of what Jesus suffered and accomplished for us at the cross.

GROUP LEADERS NOTES – STUDY 1

QUESTION 1

1. Jesus knew that the time had come for Him to go to the cross (v1). This shows that He was in complete control over what was happening.
2. His desire to show the disciples the extent of His love (v1). The phrase that Jesus loved His disciples to the end refers to 'completeness' or 'perfection'. The idea here is that Jesus loved His own with the fullest measure of love. The NIV translates: *"He now showed them the full extent of His love"*.
3. This showing of His love refers not just to this passage but all that comes after it. *"The whole section - indeed all the rest of the Gospel of John - has the banner of verse 1 flying high and wonderful over it"* (John Piper).
4. Jesus knew that He would be betrayed that very night (v2). The betrayer was sitting at the table with Him, but: *"By washing Judas's feet, which He would shortly do, Jesus met the greatest injury and insult imaginable with humble love"* (Macarthur).
5. Jesus knew that the Father had given everything into His hands (v3). This statement of Jesus' exaltation reveals the depth of His humility. The Creator and Ruler of the universe was about to wash dirty feet.

QUESTION 2

- a) Washing feet was a lowly job done by the lowliest of servants.
- b) In fact Jews would not even let their Jewish servants carry this out. It would have been carried out by Gentiles servants.
- c) But here was the Messiah; God's promised Son kneeling to wash their smelly feet.
- d) Perhaps less remarkable is that none of those disciples took the initiative and carried out the humble job themselves.

QUESTION 3

- a) You can rely on Peter to say what everyone else is thinking!
- b) The disciples must have been somewhat embarrassed. None of them had considered stooping that low to do the task for one another.
- c) Peter doesn't understand what Jesus is about to do when he goes to the cross. Indeed Jesus tells him in verse 7 that he will only understand later. This would come after the death, resurrection and ascension.
- d) He could not accept that Jesus the Master should take on the role of a servant.

QUESTION 4

- a) The disciples were Jews and would understand the significance of water and cleansing. It was involved in a lot of their ceremonial rituals.
- b) Jesus was demonstrating that he had come to deal with the dirt; not of feet but of the heart.
- c) Before Peter could serve Jesus, he needed the forgiveness and cleansing that Jesus came to bring at the cross.

QUESTION 5

- a) Jesus is describing the work of the cross and the subsequent need for cleansing.
- b) The complete cleansing of the cross never needs repeating.
- c) But we still need the daily cleansing for those sinful acts that still remain in us. Wallace Benn comments that *"Feet are used by Jesus as a picture of His disciple's daily contact with the world"*.
- d) This is about the need for sanctification. The Westminster Shorter Catechism declares that sanctification is *"The work of God's free grace, whereby we are renewed in the whole man after the image of God, and are enabled more and more to die unto sin, and live unto righteousness."*
- e) In more simple terms it is 'Growth in likeness to Christ'.