Connecting with others around the presence of Jesus, & growing spiritually by understanding and applying God's Word, together.

Week Four. John 13:21-30

# PREPARE and PRAY

Breathe deeply, settle in, and prepare to meet with God. Then invite God to speak to you through His Word.

#### **READ and LISTEN**

Slowly read this week's Scripture several times. As you read, listen to the Holy Spirit with your heart and mind.

### **SUMMARIZE and REFLECT**

On this page or in a journal, **summarize the core teaching** of these verses. **Ask God for insight** as you reflect on and answer the following questions.

- 1. What is one thing Jesus's words and/or actions reveal about God?
- 2. In your own words, what does Jesus say about who a disciple is and what disciples do?

## **DIG and DISCOVER**

Take a closer look at God's truth. Let these questions and insights deepen your understanding as you prepare to apply God's word.

HIMATINA

"For you will certainly carry out God's purpose, however you act, but it makes a difference to you whether you serve like Judas or like John."

— C.S. Lewis, The Problem of Pain

- Jesus felt deeply, and he connected emotionally with his disciples and the events that surrounded him. So he did not take
  his betrayal or relationship with the betrayer lightly. Jesus was "troubled in spirit." (vs 9)
  What do we learn about Jesus from the way He interacted with Judas? How did he feel about Judas, and how do you
  know?
- 2. Like giving a toast at a banquet, the giving of the dipped bread designated special honor. It denoted courtesy and esteem. Read Jesus's teaching in Matthew 5:43-48.
  - How do Jesus's actions in John 13 relate to his teaching in Matthew 5?
  - Is it actually possible to love, pray for, and serve your enemies? If so, share any experience you've had with this.
  - To whom in your life do need to extend this kind of love? Ask God for an opportunity and the spiritual fortitude to do so.
- 3. Judas's betrayal was already in motion (see vs 13:2) when he rejection Jesus's final acts of love. That cemented his role as a tool of Satan.
  - What lessons or warnings do you learn about Satan and our compliance with the Enemy in this passage and these: Luke 22:31; Acts 5:3; 1 Peter 5:8-9?
- 4. As Judas left, darkness fell. His departure set the events in motion that led to Jesus's death.
  - What warning do you learn from the "darkness" of Judas's heart? (John 3:19-21; 8:12; 1 John 1:5-10)
  - Do you take seriously the darkness in the world and the aims and work of Satan? Why or why not?
- 5. Remorse is sadness over a regretful action, while repentance is turning from sin and towards God. What sin(s) do you need to confess, receive forgiveness for, and turn from?
- 6. James 5:16 reminds us that there is healing when we confess to one another.
  - How does talking about our sin with each other allow God's light to overcome the darkness?
  - With whom can you be honest and transparent so you may experience God's healing?

#### **RESPOND and COMMIT**

Ask God how he wants you to respond to His Word today and this week. Commit to one step of action and share it with someone you know.