

service to them on the cross. Jesus loves us so deeply that he humbled himself as a servant so that we could be forgiven and spend eternity with him. **In what ways does Jesus’s service reveal the depth of his love for you?**

When Jesus washed his disciples’ feet, he was also modeling how we should love one another. Love is more than a fluttering feeling; it should push us to serve one another. **Do you think it is possible to love someone without serving them? Why, or why not?**

It is easy to say we love people, but serving others is difficult. Take a moment to answer the questions Francis asked us in the video. **Are you a servant? Would the people that are watching this with you say that you are a servant? Would the people closest to you talk about how you serve them?**

We shouldn’t serve one another because we feel guilty or simply to check a to-do off our spiritual list. Just as love motivated Jesus, so also should it motivate us to serve others. As Francis said, “There’s no greater motivation for us to serve one another other than [knowing] God, the Creator, washed the feet of his disciples.” **When can it be difficult for you to serve others? In what ways does love overcome our excuses for not serving others?**

Love is not an option for Christians; it should be our hallmark. When the world looks at the church, they should see our love in action above anything else. **What do you think non-Christians see when they look at the church? What would it practically look like for you to make love the hallmark of your small group?**

*[Note: If you would like to learn more about community and the Greek word koinonia, go to **Go Deeper Section 2** at the end of this study.]*

After Jesus washed his disciples’ feet, Judas left the upper room to betray Jesus for thirty pieces of silver. Francis challenged us to think of what “silver”—the alternative sources of peace, security, or comfort—we might choose over fully trusting Jesus. **What kinds of things do we turn to when we feel like Jesus’s promises aren’t worth waiting for? What “silver” might we need to give up so that we can faithfully follow Jesus?**

[Note: John 13 points out the betrayal of Judas and the denial of Peter in some detail. If you would like to learn

more about these events, go to **Go Deeper Sections 3 and 4** at the end of this study.]

Jesus’s commands feel weighty, but all he asks is that we love others and look for ways to serve one another. What’s more, he promises that we will be blessed if we do what he says. **What is the first step you could take in loving the people in this group? What immediate needs in your church could your small group meet?**

LAST WORD

God loves us deeply and showed us his love in Jesus, who served our ultimate need, dying in our place so that we might be redeemed. He asks that we love each other in the same way that he has loved us, serving each other with eagerness and humility.

It is time to step out of comfortable faith and to actively love one another. God is waiting with arms full of blessings, eager for you to live in his deepest truths and know him better. Will you trust him?

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needs, and sharing the gospel together. **What could you do to take a step toward creating deeper fellowship in your church community?**

3. Judas’s Betrayal

It is easy to think of Judas as a uniquely evil person, but he was part of Jesus’s inner circle, a believer. His fellow disciples never suspected he was a traitor. They trusted him so deeply that they put him in charge of their money bag. To the disciples, Judas’s rejection of Jesus was a shocking turn of events.

But when we look at Judas’s life, we don’t see a man who suddenly decided to turn on Jesus. We watch Judas take small, quiet steps away from God until betraying his Lord was an easy decision. Read John 12:1–8.

In this passage, what does Judas care about the most?

What secret sin defined his character?

Judas appeared trustworthy. He looked like the kind of guy you would have wanted to be your treasurer. But in his heart, he loved money more than anything else. Stealing from the disciples and Jesus became normal behavior for him. **In what ways do secret sins deceive us and change us? Why do you think it is so easy to ignore our own sins, even as they grow into character-defining traits?**

Judas was used to taking opportunities to feed his greed. So isn’t surprising he monetized his relationship with Jesus. Read Luke 22:1–6.

Judas made a premeditated decision to betray Jesus. The Gospel of Matthew tells us that Judas accepted thirty pieces of silver for turning Jesus over. That’s worth about \$600 in today’s money. At some point, following Jesus became a low priority in Judas’s life. When he looked at Jesus, all he saw was an opportunity to get paid. **In what ways do you think sin changes our desires?**

When have you seen sin start to turn a person’s life upside down?

Judas’s sin escalated from taking a coin or two from his friends to publicly betraying his Lord for a relatively small amount of money. For this reason, Francis warned us to

let go of our small sinful desires so that we may follow Jesus. **What small, secret temptations should you be aware of in your own life?**

What safeguards or accountability could you put in place to protect yourself from the deceitfulness of sin?

4. Peter’s Over-Confidence and Denial

We have a lot of reasons for being confident in our relationship with Christ. But, on this side of heaven, we need to cultivate a healthy humility toward our own sinfulness. Peter was one of the most loyal and vocal disciples but, despite his protests, he publicly denied Jesus three times in one night. Read John 13:36–38.

In what ways is Peter’s confidence praiseworthy? Do you ever wish for confidence like his? Why, or why not?

Peter had good intentions, but good intentions aren’t enough. In John 18, mere hours after professing he would die for Jesus, Peter hastily denied any association with Jesus three separate times. Circumstances change, and what is easy to profess in comfort becomes difficult to claim in times of trouble. Read 1 Corinthians 10:12–13.

Why is it important to be humble concerning our weaknesses?

According to these verses, what should we trust during times of temptation?

We are more prone to sin than we often care to admit. Temptation can sneak up on us and turn our confidence into denial. If there is one thing we can be confident in, it’s the faithfulness of God. After his resurrection, Jesus returned to Peter and forgave his denials (John 21:15–19). He was faithful even when Peter was faithless. In the same way, God is faithful when we deny him (2 Timothy 2:13).

What do you think it looks like to be cautious of your sin while being confident in God?

Take a moment to pray. Thank God for his thankfulness, repent where necessary, and rejoice in his unending faithfulness.
