



# HEARTBEATS

**BE THE** Christian community is designed to be outwardly focused, concerned with those who don't know Jesus, as well as those on the margins of society (Luke 9:48). We have a responsibility to express to the unloved and even the seemingly unlovable the grace and mercy that we received from God (Matthew 25:35-40).

Just before his crucifixion Jesus prepared his disciples for his death. He began to show and tell them what they would need to do to establish his church and transform the world. During his last meal with them, he did something remarkable.

## **READ JOHN 13:1-18**

By washing his disciples feet, Jesus inaugurated the kind of community he wanted us to live: one in which we overturn the natural order of the world by tenaciously putting others ahead of ourselves. Jesus' radical act of service was an invitation to all of his followers – all of us – to participate with him in the transformation of people's lives.

One way to invest in the lives of people around us is to serve those in need. Jesus' call for us to serve others can make us uncomfortable. It's easier to do nothing. We're tempted to view poverty and sickness and human suffering as too large for us to make much of a difference. But Jesus didn't call you live in a cloistered community that holds outsiders at bay. He'll take responsibility for changing the world, but he does invite us to be involved in his work. It's true that you can't serve everyone in need, but you can serve someone in need.

And this small community that you're in the process of forming will benefit enormously from investing in the lives of the people around you – whether it's investing in and praying for unbelieving friends or serving those in need. That tie spend doing something together to serve others will draw you into greater transparency. It will increase your trust of God and of one another.

## **THINK ABOUT IT**

- How do you think doing something together outside of group meetings could change the relationships in this group?
- What is the connection between investing in others and growing in your relationship with God?
- How could serving others change people's perceptions of Christians and the church?
- What keeps us from investing in or serving others?
- What is one way we could serve together as a group?