

# Community Group Discussion Questions

“Pay it Forward” John 13:1-15 May 27/28

## Getting Started

The concept of “Paying it Forward” begins with a willingness to make a sacrificial investment without concern for immediate gratification. However, what if I were to tell you that the return on your investment may not yield a return for YOU to actually count, carry or celebrate, but for SOMEONE else; would you still “Pay it Forward”? What would inspire you to do this? Why would you be okay with investing in something that gave you no personal reward?

## Going Deeper

PAY IT FORWARD is a challenge to us all to consider the legacy of Jesus in the following:

1. To be Faithful to the End: **Read** John 13:1  
The Faithfulness of Jesus to his Disciples was:
  - Through the Doubts
  - Through the Disappointments

We tend to see the world through the eyes of our daily schedules and where we have to be in the next 5 minutes. But Jesus took an eternal view of His life and His relationships. The phrase ‘to the end’ means to the fullest extent. How would you change the way you relate to people if you took the long view toward your relationships? What would it look like to make a plan to love them to the very end?

2. To be Forgiving of your Enemies: **Read** John 13:2  
The Forgiveness of Jesus towards Judas was:
  - Remembering not Reviling
  - Releasing not Repaying

Choosing to forgive an enemy or someone who has hurt you will set you free, freeing up your mind from harboring that grudge or offense,

and not allowing you to waste one more minute of your life. Letting go of this will let you pay forward grace, energy, and joy into someone else. **Who do you need to forgive? Will you do it right now?**

3. To be First to Encourage: **Read** John 13:3-5

The words “laid aside” found in John 13:4 references two realities of the servitude of Jesus of His life on this earth: Humanity & Humility (**Read** Philippians 2:5-7).

To be First to serve the disciples, Jesus was teaching: Luke 22:24-30

- To be first, you must be last
- To be great, you must be least

C.S. Lewis once said, “To be humble is not to think less of ourselves, but to think of ourselves less.”

Andrew Murray, a great Christian Pastor and writer takes humility even further when he says, “True humility comes when, in the light of God, we have seen ourselves to be nothing, have consented to part with and cast away self – **to let God be all**. The soul that has done this can say, ‘I have lost myself in finding You.’ **It is a soul that serves God and, for His sake, serves all.**”

**What do you think about this definition of humility?**

**What would it take for you to adopt this thinking?**

**How would your life look different if you lived this way?**

4. To be Fearless about Eternity: **Read** John 13:6-10

- To be “washed” is to be made “clean” not through baptism but through the atonement of Jesus (See Titus 3:5).
- Hear the words of Jesus said to Simon Peter as if they were meant for you today “You are Clean!”

**Just as a good shower or bath removes dirt from our bodies, so does Christ’s forgiveness remove our sin. What are you thankful that**

Jesus has washed you clean from?

If you are not yet a Christian, would you like to be washed clean and forgiven for all your sins? *(Group leader, this may be a great time to explain the gospel. See <http://www.evangel.org/gospel-presentation/> for a great presentation)*

5. To Follow His Example: **Read** John 13:12-15

Take Away: Jesus paid it forward to the 12 disciples, who in turn paid it forward to their disciples. Thus, through the years what has been paid forward has reached us today. We have a responsibility; better yet, a choice to make. Will your life be an investment in others to pay it forward once more?

Who are you discipling right now? Who are you pouring your life into so that they can know Jesus and live in relationship with Him?

If you don't have anyone you are discipling, would you be willing to get in a group and let someone disciple you so you can learn how to do it for others? *(Leaders, if you have someone who wants to be disciple, let me know and we can help connect them with one of our trained discipleship leaders).*

### **Group Prayer Requests**

Pray that God will begin to do a supernatural work in your heart so that no matter where you are now, you will grow into a generous, cheerful, purposeful, gracious giver.