

It's What You Know!

"Faith Forward" series- Part 01

Use the next few minutes to connect and fellowship with other members of the group by discussing the following: What was one of the toughest lessons that you have learned? Why was it tough? Was there a better way to learn the lesson and how?

Let's get on the same page -

Read the following four quotes on PREPARATION. Choose the **one** quote that you strongly agree with and explain why you feel it is true.

1. "What we are waiting for is not as important as what happens to us while we are waiting. Trust the process." — Mandy Hale
2. "Give me six hours to chop down a tree and I will spend the first four sharpening the axe."
— Abraham Lincoln
3. "Discover a purpose that gives you passion. Develop a plan that makes you persistent. Design a preparation that motivates you to optimize your potential. Do it because you love it!"
— Israelmore Ayivor, Dream Big!: See Your Bigger Picture!
4. "Your strength doesn't come from winning. It comes from struggles and hardship. Everything that you go through prepares you for the next level."
— Germany Kent

In a recent lesson in our "Faith Forward" series, we noted that Joshua, in his season of preparation to succeed Moses as the leader of the Exodus, exercised five keys to success: *Wait, Watch, Serve, Dream, and Grow*. In our study today, let's look at the example of Jesus Christ, as He prepares to give Himself as a sacrifice to purchase our eternal salvation (*a huge task!*). In John 13, we will note that one of the keys to great preparation can be knowledge. What did Jesus know that helped Him to endure the shame, pain, and certainty of the cross?

Book: John 13:1-5 and 12-17

John 13:1 Before the Passover celebration, Jesus knew that His hour had come to leave this world and return to His Father. He had loved His disciples during His ministry on earth, and now He loved them to the very end.

John 13:2 It was time for supper, and the devil had already prompted Judas, son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus.

John 13:3 Jesus knew that the Father had given Him authority over everything and that He had come from God and would return to God.

John 13:4 So He got up from the table, took off His robe, wrapped a towel around His waist,

John 13:5 and poured water into a basin. Then He began to wash the disciples' feet, drying them with the towel He had around Him.

John 13:12 After washing their feet, He put on His robe again and sat down and asked, "Do you understand what I was doing?"

John 13:13 You call Me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and you are right, because that's what I am.

John 13:14 And since I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash each other's feet.

John 13:15 I have given you an example to follow. Do as I have done to you.

John 13:16 I tell you the truth, slaves are not greater than their master. Nor is the messenger more important than the One who sends the message.

John 13:17 Now that you know these things, God will bless you for doing them.

Let's get into the Word:

Let's discuss the things that Jesus knew and how that same kind of knowledge can greatly assist us in our own efforts to *Wait, Watch, Serve, Dream, and Grow*.

1. Read John 13:1 again. If you had to list four (at least 4) things that He acknowledges in this one verse, what would they be?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

How many of the listed aspects of knowledge may be known by us as well? How do you come to this kind of knowledge and how does it prepare you for the uncertainties of life?

2. Now read John 13:3. This verse lends itself to creating another list: What are the 3 things that are reported that Jesus knew about Himself?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Today it is common to discuss our identity in different ways: Gender, Sexual, Social, Self Esteem, Financial, etc. According to John 13:3, how would Christ's knowledge concerning His identity help Him to complete His earthly mission?

Can you identify with any of the above same identifying truths that describe Christ? How? Can you describe a time when this kind of knowledge helped you as you serve Him in a fallen world?

In John 13:17, Jesus tells us that there is one more thing that we should know. Describe what that knowledge is and how knowing it will help prepare us for ministry and service to others.

What are some obstacles to us having the right knowledge or beliefs about ourselves that could prevent us from being a servant/leader?

Let's get real (with self!)

Hopefully your group has listed seven things that Jesus knew about Himself. Choose the one you feel needs some work in your spiritual life and address it in the following ways:

1. My knowledge is not complete in this area: _____
2. I will take this one step this week to learn more about this: _____
3. I will share my struggle with a trusted friend and ask him/her to hold me accountable to my personal action step: