

## Series: Things That Go Bump In The Night

### Scripture and Background Information for July 26 – August 1.

To prepare for your group discussion each week, group members should use the **Community Group Discussion Guide** to complete the **GOD'S WORDS** and **MY WORDS** columns using the scripture below.

This week we'll start a new series called *Things that Go Bump in the Night* as we look at Jesus' last message to His disciples. It was the night before He would be crucified and that evening He gives a message commonly called the Upper Room Discourse. The point of His message was to provide encouragement and courage for the days ahead. This week we'll be looking at **John 13:1-17**. John introduces his Gospel by showing that Jesus is the Messiah, who existed eternally (John 1:1-51). John recounts the miracles and teachings of Jesus's life to prove his claim that Jesus is the Messiah.

#### **Background for John 13:1-17.**

John introduces Jesus' final words by showing us the setting (13:1-4). Jesus celebrates his last Passover with his friends. While they are celebrating, he introduces his final message by washing his disciples' feet. Jesus begins teachings through a disagreement with Peter. Jesus uses the disagreement to introduce his theme of "a loving servant-ship" to his disciples.

While working through the text, consider the following things:

1. Why is Peter so surprised by Jesus' action? Does the context give you some clues?
2. What does Jesus mean with his answer to Peter in Verse 8? To what act does Jesus connect the washing of his feet?
3. When Jesus applies his example to the disciples, does he want us to wash each other's feet, or does he imply something else (Verse 14-15)? See if these verses help you understand Jesus' answer to Peter in Verse 8.
4. What is Jesus' appeal to his disciples in Verse 18? How does Jesus view "real knowledge?"

*Note:* While we are working through the new series, remember that the whole discourse in John's Gospel contains Jesus' final words to his disciples.

#### **Scriptures for upcoming weeks:**

August 2	John 13:18-38
August 9	John 14:15-31