branches **small groups**

Now What?

Week 1 - Brian Kangas "Who Is In Line With Who?"

Icebreaker: What language would you like to learn?

Topics for Discussion:

Read: Mark 10:17-31

- Have you ever tried to justify yourself to God? What was it about and what was your case for being "in the right"?
- In the story, the Rich Man appears to be setting himself up as "good". He has kept the commandments and rules of his culture. Discuss some reasons why that isn't "good" enough to get into Heaven for him or for us.

Things to Consider:

- The Rich Man approached Jesus with a question, "What must **I do** to **inherit** eternal life?" Jesus moves past the question and seeks out the heart of the matter. After discussing the law and its cultural application, Jesus tells the Rich Man to sell everything and follow Him.
 - He leaves sad.
- Jesus wants all of you. He's not interested in sharing you with your possessions, your notions of goodness, or your feelings of self-righteousness. Just as he tells the Rich Man, Jesus asks us to give up everything and to follow him: including our ideas of what good really is.
- Discuss some areas where the world's good is at odds with God's good.

Going Deeper:

• Is there something in your life that you refuse to let go of to follow Jesus? The Rich Man was sad because he treasured (or: **valued**) the possessions he owned: his heart wasn't in the right place.

Prayer: Pray that our hearts and minds would line up with God's perfect good. Pray that we are receptive to God's urging us toward Him and that we act boldly to seek Him out!