

**WHO IS THIS MAN?  
WEEK 4 DISCUSSION GUIDE  
"SERVANT"**

**READ**

This week we continued our "Who Is This Man" series looking at the Gospel of Mark, Mark's account of the life of Jesus, to answer the question, who is Jesus? We covered Mark chapters 8-10 where the focus is on Jesus reeducating the apostles about the mission of the Messiah and the nature of true discipleship. In Mark 8:29 Jesus asks the apostles, "Who do you think I am?" Peter rightly responds confessing that Jesus is the Messiah. It becomes clear however in Peter's response to Jesus when he predicts his suffering, death and resurrection that he still fails to understand what it means to be the Messiah. He rebukes Jesus. Suffering and dying does not at all fit with his picture of the Messiah.

Peter, like others, envisioned a political, geographical kingdom where Jesus, as king, would overthrow Rome. A kingdom based on power and wealth. Even those closest to him still did not comprehend the nature and mission of Jesus and the values of living in the kingdom of God, with God in charge of their lives. This is highlighted multiple times in this portion of Mark.

*Mark 9:33*

*They came to Capernaum. When he was in the house he asked them, "What were you arguing about on the road?" But they kept quiet because on the road they had argued about who was the greatest.*

Jesus, for the second time, has just told them he will suffer, die and resurrect and they are arguing about who will be the greatest in the kingdom.

In Mark 10:33-34 Jesus tells them for a third time that he will suffer, die and resurrect. Immediately after hearing this James and John ask for an elevated position in the kingdom. "Let one of us sit at your right and the other at your left in your glory."

*Mark 10:42-45*

*Jesus called them together and said, "You know that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them."*

*Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all.*

*"For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."*

Jesus explains that the way of the world, the way of power and status, will not be so with us. He defines greatness in a whole new way. In the kingdom of God, joy and greatness is found in serving, humility, giving and sacrifice.

## **DISCUSS**

Have you ever had to submit to someone in a position of authority that lorded it over you? Talk about that experience.

In contrast, have you worked for someone who influenced by kindness and love rather than power and authority? How did this make you feel?

Tell about a time you found joy in serving.

This week Scott asked us to have a conversation about two questions. Please take some time to discuss these in your group.

How do you define greatness?

What has that pursuit of greatness gotten you?

Tell about a time in your life when your definition of greatness shifted. How did this change your life?

## **PRAY FOR YOUR GROUP**

Pray that we would not strive for greatness by seeking power, wealth and authority. That instead we would seek to live in humility with a focus on serving others.

## **PRAY FOR FCC**

Pray that as a church we would reflect the love of Christ in the way we serve others. That we would not live by the standards and values of the world but instead would live surrendered to God, reflecting the character and conduct of Christ.

## **PRAY FOR OUR GLOBAL PARTNERS**

Take a moment to thank God for the successful launch of 23 new churches in people groups throughout India that are completely new to hearing about Jesus. Pray for our FCC global partners, MidIndia Christian Mission, as they seek to plant a total of 50 churches by 2020. Pray for these new followers of Jesus to remain bold and encouraged in their faith, sharing the hope of Jesus with their friends and families.