

Study Guide

Small Group Questions *February 15 & 16, 2020*

The theme of this week's passage is servanthood (Mark 10:32-52). While two disciples try to secure spots of honor in the messianic kingdom, Jesus teaches that the path to greatness involves serving others.

1. *Read verses 32-34.* This is now the third prediction of Jesus' suffering and death. How is it similar to the others (compare 8:31 and 9:31-32)? Different? Why did the Lord warn them three times? What does this tell us about human nature?

2. How is the request of James and John (verse 37) ironic in light of the prediction in vv.32-34? What does their request tell us about heavenly rewards? Is it wrong to desire them? What is the problem here?

3. According to verse 41, why were the other disciples angry with the two brothers? How does striving for personal glory affect the unity of the church?

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4. *Read verses 42-45.* Contrast Jesus' approach to leadership with the world's approach. How is his approach countercultural? What would this look like in your context (home, work, school, etc.)?

5. Verse 45 has been described as the "theme verse" of Mark's gospel. What does the Lord reveal about his purpose here? How does this serve as a model for us? What is unique about his role?

6. *Read verses 46-52.* In verse 51, Jesus asks Bartimaeus, '*What do you want me to do for you?*' This is what he also asked James and John in verse 36. How could you use this question to demonstrate a servant's heart to the people in your circle?

In the prayer and accountability time, explore ways the group might be able to serve someone in need—whether inside the group or outside. Pray for that need, then purpose to take action.