

## LIFE GROUP GUIDE – Week Beginning Sunday 17th May 2026

### KEY SCRIPTURES – Mark 9:33-50

#### This Week's BIG IDEA

This passage goes together because, according to Mark, it summarises the teaching Jesus gave the twelve disciples while staying in Capernaum (possibly at Peter and/or Andrew's house) shortly after his second of three predictions about the cross. As he does here, Jesus follows each of these predictions with hard hitting teaching about the cost of following him (see also 8:33-38 and 10:35-45). This is a call to wholehearted discipleship, that costs us something in this life but is richly rewarded in the next.

#### Getting into Scripture (40 mins)

Read the Key Scripture above.

- Q1. What do you find particularly motivating and/or challenging about Jesus' teaching in this passage?
- Q2. Why do you think the disciples were arguing about who was the greatest (in v33-34)? And to what extent do you sympathise with their misunderstanding of Jesus and his Kingdom?
- Q3. What do you think it means for us to 'welcome little children in Jesus' name' (in v36-37)?
- Q4. How can we avoid John's mistake of stopping someone we're uncertain about stepping out as a Kingdom Bringer (in v38-40)?
- Q5. What might the reward be for giving someone a 'cup of water in Jesus' name' (in v41)? (You could look up Matthew 25:31-46)
- Q6. What do you think it means to cause yourself or someone else to 'stumble' (in v42-47)? And why is it so important to avoid it?
- Q7. What is God saying to you personally about serving him by serving others?
- Q8. What, if anything, does God want you to 'cut off or pluck out' from your life in order to follow him more wholeheartedly (in v43-47)?

#### Focussing on God (20 mins)

Consider taking communion together as an act of worship, recalling Jesus' sacrifice for us (read v31) and recommitting yourselves as living sacrifices to him (read Romans 12:1-2).

You could then sing [I Will Offer Up My Life](#) by Matt Redman in response, followed by a time of open worship, encouraging people to start a song, pray out, read Scripture or bring a spiritual gift as the Holy Spirit prompts.

#### Prayer (10 mins)

Leave time to pray together:

- Firstly, for the least and lowest groups of people in your community.
- Secondly, for the next generation of children and young people, including those you know, those in your church and those in your local community.