

# MARK 9

## DISCUSSION GUIDE

### **SUMMARY:**

The New Testament is filled with several paradoxical (seemingly self-contradictory) teachings. In it, we read that the way to find real life is to die, that we'll find greater blessings by giving rather than receiving, and that we should love and pray for those who treat us poorly. This week, we'll look through parts of the 9th chapter of the Gospel of Mark and see some things Jesus taught us about what many would consider to be "upside-down" living—and how this is the key to experiencing a fulfilled life.

### **Key Passage: Mark 9:30-37**

*Be sure to read this Scripture passage together before you proceed to the "Grow" section of our study.*

### **QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION AND DISCUSSION**

#### **KNOW: Spend some time finding out how everyone's week has gone.**

*The questions in this section provide a guide for connectivity; feel free to approach this part of your group time organically over a meal or "connection" activity or with questions appropriate to your context.*

*What is something that you are thankful for this week?*

*What is something that is causing you stress or concern this week?*

*Who in your life is in need of prayer, physical help, or emotional encouragement right now?*

#### **GROW: Grow in the Lord as you engage His Word together.**

When Jesus said, "whoever wants to be first should go last," what do you think He meant? What does this mean to you personally?

Does it surprise you that the disciples soon after hearing about Jesus' impending death were arguing among themselves about who among them was the greatest? Why or why not?

A great barrier to being the servant Jesus has called us to be is pride. What are some ways we can avoid or kill pride in our lives?

#### **GO: Talk through ways you can put what you've learned into practice.**

Being in a city like Las Vegas that celebrates self-indulgence, winning, and being first how can we live counter-culturally to this way of thinking and make a difference for the cause of Jesus?

What are some ways that we can adopt the mindset of being a servant of all?

Why must the gospel be what shapes our understanding of and obedience to this passage?



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