

Life Group Homework

For the week of May 26, 2019

MY STORY

1. If you could take this group anywhere to share an experience together and there were no obstacles, where would it be?
2. What was your takeaway from last week's study?

QUICK REVIEW

3. Upon reviewing your notes from Sunday's teaching, what caught your attention?

DIGGING DEEPER

Matthew 20:17-24 (ESV)

¹⁷ And as Jesus was going up to Jerusalem, he took the twelve disciples aside, and on the way he said to them, ¹⁸ "See, we are going up to Jerusalem. And the Son of Man will be delivered over to the chief priests and scribes, and they will condemn him to death ¹⁹ and deliver him over to the Gentiles to be mocked and flogged and crucified, and he will be raised on the third day."

A Mother's Request

²⁰ Then the mother of the sons of Zebedee came up to him with her sons, and kneeling before him she asked him for something. ²¹ And he said to her, "What do you want?" She said to him, "Say that these two sons of mine are to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your kingdom." ²² Jesus answered, "You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I am to drink?" They said to him, "We are able." ²³ He said to them, "You will drink my cup, but to sit at my right hand and at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared by my Father." ²⁴ And when the ten heard it, they were indignant at the two brothers. ²⁵ But Jesus called them to him and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. ²⁶ It shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, ²⁷ and whoever would be first among you must be your slave, ²⁸ even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

4. What does Jesus tell the disciples that is going to happen to Him?
5. Let's take a moment and think about the fact that this is the third time Jesus told the disciples this was going to happen to Him. Could Jesus have been any clearer with them, and if so, how?
6. The disciples had the assumption that Jesus was ultimately going to reign and rule. They may have understood His statement, but their expectation was that He would then set up His kingdom on earth immediately. What does the mother of James and John ask Jesus for?

7. There is an interesting point to be made here; who did Jesus respond to instead of the mother?
8. Jesus refers to a cup that He has to drink. What is He talking about?
9. What did the rest of the disciples do about the request of James and John, and why?
10. What does it mean to be indignant?

TAKING IT HOME

Jesus saw that there was a misunderstanding among all of the disciples, so He stopped and addressed it.

11. According to Jesus what do rulers do?
12. Have you ever been lorded over? If so, what was it like?
13. What does Jesus say matters most?
14. Who does Jesus use as the example of this principle?
15. Where in your life do you need to apply this principle of service?
16. Pastor Craig has been teaching us that a posture of repentance is one of the ways we clear our vision for God's purpose in our lives. Is there anything regarding service that you need to repent of?
17. How does Jesus teaching us to be servants differ from the world's perspective of leadership?
18. What is Jesus saying when He challenges us to be a slave of others?

It's important to note that Jesus' use of "slave" is not about being abused, which many of us think of when we hear the word slave. It's about a posture of the heart that others are more important than me, and that I am intentionally choosing to serve others and put their *needs* (not wants) ahead of my own.

19. Who do you need to serve?

CHAIR TIME TOOLS

Read all of Matthew Chapter 20 and meditate on and answer the following questions.

20. What are the main themes that Jesus is trying to teach?
21. How can you lean into God's economy and serve others?
22. Where can you step into service in your life?

Jesus

PASTOR CRAIG SWEENEY

May 26, 2019

One Main Point: The posture of repentance invites HOPE.

"From then on Jesus began to preach, 'Repent of your sins and turn to God, for the Kingdom of Heaven is near'" (Matt 4:17 NLT) "Close enough to touch."

"Jesus called out to them, "Come, follow me, and I will show you how to fish for people!" (Matt 4:19 NLT)

Moving away from My Plan B to God's Plan A is about OTHERS.

Matthew 20:17–28 NLT

²⁵ But Jesus called them together and said, "You know that the rulers in this world lord it over their people, and officials flaunt their authority over those under them.²⁶ But among you it will be different. Whoever wants to be a leader among you must be your servant,²⁷ and whoever wants to be first among you must become your slave.²⁸ For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many."

Lesson 1: He meant it!

Lesson 2: Serving others really is the point.

Lesson 3: When I expect to SERVE and not be SERVED, I am following Jesus.

Lesson 4: When I expect to SERVE, I see the opportunities.

Lesson 5: A clean heart hears God more clearly.

BONUS ROUND

Lesson 6: Repentance (*clean heart*) allows me to see the opportunity for the WIN in a relationship that seems lost.

Lesson 7: The Kingdom of God is about the unexpected.

Lesson 8: To serve well, I must keep my heart clean.

Challenge:

Keep your heart clean. What needs cleaning?

WHO will I serve? HOW and WHEN? STOP giving yourself a pass!

Prayers for our city:

- God can and will break the power of addiction in our city, neighbors and homes as people surrender their hearts to Him.
- All churches will together walk into every room of our city loving God and loving others as ourselves.
- That God's church will embody hope and invite our city to join us.
- We will be bold, and God would open doors of opportunity, so that we may offer Christ to the children and youth of our city.
- People would recognize their hunger to know God.