

Life Group Questions

March 11th

Get-To-Know-Me-Question:

Where are you in your birth order and how has that shaped the way you relate to your family (parents, siblings, etc.)?

Into The Bible Questions:

Read through **Mark 10:35-45**.

1. Here we have a classic disciple argument about who is better. It happened a lot (see Luke 22:24, Luke 9:46, Mark 9:33-34). Jesus doesn't answer James and John's request, but he doesn't deny it either. He redirects the conversation. How do you read what Jesus says in verse 38? Do you think Jesus is talking about his death, his call as Messiah or maybe something else?
2. In verse 41, the other disciples start quarreling among themselves. Jesus speaks to the tension by redefining what greatness is. For Jesus, greatness is about being a servant. What does that look like? Who are some great servants you have seen in your life?
3. How does Jesus' definition of greatness speak against the preconceived notions in the time Jesus said these things? How does it speak against the preconceived notions in our day? Lastly, how does this specific view of greatness give us a glimpse into God's character?

Let's Go Deeper:

Read through **Luke 15:11-16**.

- This is a parable most people are familiar with. The story of the prodigal son has become part of our own culture. We know what happens next. But what if verse 16 was the end of the story? That's likely what the people who first heard this parable thought. What if this story ended in a pig trough? What would be the big lesson here? What would this say about God? What would this say about the run-away son? What would this say about the way God relates to people?

Continue reading **Luke 15:17-24**

- Again, this isn't the end of the story, though it could be. The run-away son has returned home and the father has accepted him back into the family. Even though this story is incomplete, what do we see so far as the big lesson? What would this say about God? What would this say about the way God relates to people?

Finish by reading **Luke 15:25-32**

- Finally, we come to the end of this parable. Does this change anything about the big lesson of this story? Is there any change to what this says about God and the way God relates to people?
- Told in its completion, what is being said about each of our characters? Do some analysis about motives, values and goals for the younger brother, the older brother and the father.
- During the time Jesus told this story, who do see embodying the characteristics of the two brothers? Who could the younger brother represent? What about the older brother? Once discussion has finished here, ask the same question about today. Who in our world do we see embodying the characteristics of the two brothers? And then finally, who do you identify with more as you think back on your life or as you look at your life today?
- What would Jesus have us believe about God's greatness by telling this parable? Do you think the world today believes this is actually how God acts with his children? What could we do as followers of Jesus to help people accept this more? What could happen in your life that could help you accept this more?