

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

March 22, 2026

MARK: The Life of a Disciple

Passage: Mark 10:13–22

Theme: Receiving the Kingdom

Overview: Most of our lives run on a simple equation: do something → get something.

Work hard → earn money.

Study hard → get good grades.

Train hard → improve your skills.

This rhythm shapes how we approach nearly everything in life. It can even shape how we approach God. But in this passage, Jesus confronts that mindset. Through two back-to-back stories, he shows us something surprising about the Kingdom of God: The Kingdom is not something we achieve — it is something we receive.

Read Mark 10:13–22.

What stands out to you?

What surprises you?

What questions does the passage raise?

Mark 10:13-16

Theme: Receive the Kingdom of God like a child

- Why do you think the disciples tried to stop the children from coming to Jesus?
- What qualities do children have that might help us understand what Jesus means?
- Why do you think receiving is often harder for adults than for children?

Discuss the observation that the disciples rebuke the children in the story. Why might that reveal something about their priorities?

- Where do we sometimes see people being pushed away from Jesus instead of welcomed?
- What kinds of people, situations, or attitudes do you find yourself embracing?
- What do you tend to rebuke or resist?
- Where do Jesus's words challenge you?

Mark 10:17-22

- In what ways does our culture train us to think in terms of doing to get?
- Do you ever find yourself relating to God the same way? Why?
- Why do you think Jesus challenges this mindset with the rich man?

IDEA: You can't do to get the Kingdom — you have to receive

- What do you think was uniquely hardest for the rich man about Jesus' instruction?
- Why do you think Mark places these two stories together? What contrast is he highlighting?
- How do we often end up thinking like the rich man?
- What might it look like in your life to receive the Kingdom like a child?

How is your 21-day prayer and fast going?

- What have you committed to fast from?
- How is your daily prayer going? Do you need me to text you the prayer again?
- Who can join me on Sunday, 15 minutes before service for prayer?

Daily Declarative Prayer: *I am accepted because the guilt of my sin is covered by the righteousness of Christ. I am free from the bondage of sin through the power of Jesus in my life. I praise you Jesus, for your work. I am now not alone, but accompanied by the counselor, the Holy Spirit. I am now alive in Jesus, with the freedom to resist and expel the powers of darkness. Lead me in your way, your truth, and your life. Amen.*