



Week 4
Discipleship Study
Questions



Mark Part 3: The Cost of Discipleship

Let's be honest—some of Jesus' words are hard to hear. He talks about denying ourselves, carrying a cross, letting go of power, laying down pride, surrendering money, and even redefining faithfulness in marriage. These aren't just feel-good teachings—they're costly invitations. In chapters 1–8, Mark shows us the Good News of the Kingdom of God breaking into the world through Jesus. But starting at the end of chapter 8, the tone shifts.

In **Part 3** of our yearlong journey through Mark, Jesus begins telling His disciples—and us—what it really means to follow Him. He speaks directly about humility, surrender, trust, leadership, marriage, and sacrifice. But these difficult teachings come with a compelling promise: that the life Jesus calls us to is the path of deep impact, joy-filled obedience, and eternal purpose. This is the invitation of discipleship—not just to follow Jesus, but to become like Him. What might God do through a church that truly counts the cost and still says yes?

Read the Scripture:

Individual: Read the passage from two or three different translations.

Group: Have two different group members read the passage using different Bible translations.

Speak the Scripture:

Individual: Recite the story aloud from memory (as best you can) or tell it to a friend or family member. The goal here is to get the essence of the passage in your heart.

Group: Have someone volunteer to recite the passage aloud in their own words, as best they can.

Understand the Scripture:

Individual or Group: Use the Discovery Questions to help ensure you understand the passage.

Dig Deeper into the Scripture:

Individual: Work through the Digging Deeper questions and pray about what God reveals to you through His word. Discuss with a Christian friend or family member if you choose.

Group: Work through the Digging Deeper questions as a group, celebrating the work God is already doing in each person's life, and encouraging each other to trust Him in the places that need growth.

Small Group Guidelines

This is a Safe Group

Confidentiality is key—what is said in the group stays in the group. Be aware of how you are affecting the environment with your words, actions, and non-verbal communication. This needs to be a place where people feel comfortable opening up and sharing.

No Crosstalk

Be considerate of others as they are sharing. No side conversations, phone time, texting etc.

Listen

Let's value one another by listening to what is being shared. Allow a pause after someone shares to allow them to finish and others to consider what was said. Eye contact and body posture play key roles in creating a positive or negative group environment.

No Rescuing or Fixing

We are not here to fix each other; Jesus does that part. Avoid the tendency to rescue when someone is struggling to get the words out or shares a struggle or conviction.

Use "I" Statements

It's easy to talk about the issues of others, or respond with "we," "us," or "the church," but for us to grow as disciples and build relationships, we want to use "I" statements.

Don't Over-Talk

We want to create time for all members of the group to participate in the discussion. Be careful not to always be the first responder or regularly give long responses.

Fight for Relationship

It's not if conflict or hurt feelings will happen, but when. We commit to fight for relationship with each other. Go to the person and share your struggle or seek wise advice if you are not sure how to handle the conflict.

Background: We all want to live meaningful lives—to be seen, valued, and remembered. But Jesus turns our idea of greatness upside down. In His kingdom, true greatness isn't measured by status, success, or applause. It's found in sacrificial love—the kind that serves without needing recognition.

Read: Mark 10:35-45

Discovery Questions:

What do we learn about God in this passage?

What do we learn about what it means to be a follower of Christ in this passage?

What do you think the Holy Spirit might be teaching you personally through this passage?

Is there anything God is leading you to do after reading this passage?

Digging Deeper:

James and John wanted seats of honor beside Jesus. Why do you think they made this request?

Read verses 42–44 again. What stands out to you about Jesus' response?

Jesus doesn't shame their desire to be great—He redefines it. What does greatness look like in God's eyes? Who in your life models this kind of servant-hearted greatness?

What does verse 45 reveal about Jesus' mission and character?

How does Jesus' sacrificial love shape the way we think about success, power, or leadership?

What does it cost us to serve others in this way? What helps you say "yes" to it anyway?

End this time with a prayer.

Heavenly Father, You take our ideas of how things should be, and You turn them completely on their heads. You showed us that true greatness is displayed through love and sacrifice – and You gave us the perfect example of that in Christ on the cross. When the opportunity arises, remind us that it is in showing sacrificial love that we display the greatness of Christ to the world. We seek glory for His name, not ours. In Jesus' name, Amen.