

Small Group Discussion Questions

Matthew 20:20-28 (NIV)

A Mother's Request

20 Then the mother of Zebedee's sons came to Jesus with her sons and, kneeling down, asked a favor of him.

21 "What is it you want?" he asked.

She said, "Grant that one of these two sons of mine may sit at your right and the other at your left in your kingdom."

22 "You don't know what you are asking," Jesus said to them. "Can you drink the cup I am going to drink?" "We can," they answered.

23 Jesus said to them, "You will indeed drink from my cup, but to sit at my right or left is not for me to grant. These places belong to those for whom they have been prepared by my Father."

24 When the ten heard about this, they were indignant with the two brothers. **25** Jesus called them together and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. **26** Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, **27** and whoever wants to be first must be your slave — **28** just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

Observe

1.) What stands out to you in this passage? What feelings/resistances come up as you read this?

Interpret

- 2.) What do we learn about the value/success in God's kingdom?
- 3.) How is this different than the way success is viewed in the world?
- 4.) Why is this included in the Bible? In other words, why is this important?

Application

5.) Where is God calling us to be a servant?

*Depending on your group dynamics, focus in on one of these:

- How could we serve together as a small group?
- How could we better serve our families/spouses/kids?
- How could we better serve our roommates or our campus?
- How could we better serve our coworkers?