

GOSPEL COMMUNITY GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Mark 10:32-45



REDEEMER
ROUND ROCK

CONNECT, REVIEW, PRAY

~5-10 minutes

- Announce any church activities/events and handle any housekeeping for the GC
- What are you thankful for / have struggled with this week?
- How did you apply or share what we learned last week?
- How can we pray for each other?

READ & RE-TELL

~5-10 minutes

- Have someone read out loud from the ESV translation.
- Have someone read out loud from a different translation.
- Do we need to define any confusing/unknown/curious words or phrases?
- Ask one person to re-tell the passage in their own words (different from the person reading).

ASK, LISTEN, LEARN

~30+ minutes

- What does this passage tell us about the character and nature of God?
- What does this passage tell us about ourselves/humanity?
- What does this passage tell us about the relationship between God and people?
- Review "FURTHER APPLICATION" questions.

APPLY, OBEY, GO

~10+ minutes

- Does anything in this passage change how you should live, or how you view God / people / yourself?
- Does this passage reveal a specific sin in your life?
- How can you live differently this coming week, with what you've learned?

FURTHER APPLICATION

1. The question that James and John asked Jesus revealed their ambitious desires. What are some of the ambitions of your heart? Don't be afraid to mention ones that might be sinful, as well as one that might be good.
2. Do you feel that you lean more towards ambitions of power or ambitions of pleasure? Or something else? How does this play out in your own life?
3. What does it mean when Jesus says we should be a 'servant' and 'slave of all'?
4. Name some of the ways in which Jesus serves us. Not only in salvation but also in our everyday lives.
5. Discuss what it means that Jesus was a ransom for us. How does his being a ransom show us his life of service to us?

5 HELPFUL GROUP DISCUSSION RULES

1. *If you talk a lot, allow space for someone else to speak up.*
2. *If you don't talk as much, work on sharing more.*
3. *Focus on what this passage is saying, don't stray too far from it. Seek not only to understand more about God through the passage, but also how it specifically applies to your own life as a Christian.*
4. *Give other people time to respond, silence is ok.*
5. *Respect your GC family and exercise grace.*

COMMENTARY EXCERPT:

***Mark 10:35-45**

A selfish request (see Mt. 20:20–28). If it had not been recorded we could have hardly believed that, after all this, James and John could have come with their ambitious and selfish request. We know only too well, however, what we are like ourselves, and so we can understand. If they had realized the true cost of high place in the kingdom of God, they would not have dared to ask, in spite of their brave words. Cup and baptism (or 'flood') are OT pictures of judgment and suffering. Jesus warned them that suffering would indeed come, but it would not necessarily lead to a high place in the kingdom of God, for all must endure it. High place was for God alone to give.

The ten other disciples showed up just as badly as James and John when they were angry with them because of their request. No doubt they had wanted these places for themselves. So Jesus patiently explained to them once more the totally different pattern of God's kingdom, where true greatness is humble service. He himself is the great example of this. He came to be the suffering servant of God prophesied in Is. 53 and to give his life as a ransom for many (45). The use of the word 'many' does not mean that Jesus died only for some people, not for all; it stresses rather the great number of those ransomed by his death. This is one of the very few places in Mark where the way in which Jesus' death saves us is explained. Mark is far more interested in the plain fact that it does save us rather than the way in which it does. Ransom is one of the many pictures by which salvation is explained in the NT. It means the buying-back of people from slavery or prison or death by paying a price. We are all too familiar with it today from the demands of kidnappers and hi-jackers. In this case the price was to be the death of Jesus.

Cole, R. A. (1994). Mark. In D. A. Carson, R. T. France, J. A. Motyer, & G. J. Wenham (Eds.), New Bible commentary: 21st century edition (4th ed., pp. 966–967). Inter-Varsity Press.