*Ask for God’s Spirit to give you understanding of His Word, eyes to see who He is, conviction and discernment to know how this applies to your life, freedom to speak with humility and honesty before others, as well as love to listen graciously to others. Then read through the passage together before talking through the questions below. Leave time at the end for sharing more specifically how you might need prayer in light of what you discussed, as well as ways you can respond this week.*

**DISCUSSION 1: SEEKING A THRONE**

1. Do you think James and John were right in what they asked for in verse 37? Was a good thing to ask for? Why or why not?
2. How does Jesus’ description of his impending death in 10:32-34 stand in stark contrast to the request of James and John in 10:35-37?
3. What are ways we might miss out on or misunderstand the agenda Jesus has because we are focused on our desires or what we think Jesus should do?

**DISCUSSION 2: DRINKING A CUP**

1. Read Mark 10:38, 45; 14:36; John 18:11; Is. 51:17, 22; Jer. 25:15; Rev. 14:10. What does the cup Jesus refers to here represent (specifically)?
2. Read Luke 12:50; Jonah 2:3-6; Ps. 88:6-7; Rom. 6:3-4; 1 Peter 3:18-22. Why do you think Jesus refers to his death and burial *for us* as his “baptism”? How does the image of baptism under and out of the waters parallel what Jesus is about to do in his death and resurrection?
3. Why is the gospel—the message of Christ’s redemptive work for sinners that we receive by grace through faith in Christ—and the references to the cup and baptism (10:38) as well as Christ’s life-giving ransom (10:45) both a sobering and a celebratory thing?
4. How should the reality that Jesus fully absorbed (or drank) the cup of God’s wrath, that Jesus fully paid for our sins, and that he gave his life to redeem us to God cause us to live different? How do we apply this gospel to our day-to-day temptations, trials, and struggles?

**DISCUSSION 3: CHOOSING SERVANTHOD**

1. Jesus must suffer the cross before he can be exalted and wear the crown. This idea of suffering, humility, and brokenness preceding glory and exaltation is the normal pattern laid out in the Bible (see 1 Peter 1:11; 4:13). Why does the question of James and John demonstrate their desire to skip the cross and go right to the crown?
2. In what ways do we want to or try to avoid suffering with Christ (the crown) and expect or want to immediately experience exaltation or glory (cross)?
3. How does this pattern of embracing the cross in this life then relate to Jesus’ words in 10:42-45 about the call to servanthood?
4. Why is this—being a servant, putting others before ourselves, laying down our rights and privileges, being “last”—so difficult? What are ways we can live this out in everyday life?
5. How does reflecting and meditating on what Christ did for us provide both the model and the motivation to then lay down our life in smaller ways by being a servant to those around us?
6. What are 1-2 practical ways you can respond to or live out this passage this week?

**NOTES OR PRAYER REQUESTS**