

FURTHER STUDY GUIDE

The Cost of Following Jesus | Mark 10

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Mark 10 records Jesus' final journey toward Jerusalem and ultimately the cross. As He travels, He repeatedly teaches His disciples what it means to follow Him. Throughout the chapter, Jesus challenges common assumptions about marriage, children, wealth, success, leadership, and faith. While the world values power, status, and self-interest, Jesus calls His followers to humility, sacrifice, service, and wholehearted devotion.

A recurring theme in this chapter is the contrast between the world's way and God's kingdom way. The question Jesus continually presses is: *Are you willing to surrender your way to embrace His?*

ICEBREAKER QUESTION

"If Jesus asked you to give up the one thing you are holding onto most tightly (a possession, a habit, a relationship, or a specific dream), what do you think that "thing" would be for you, and how hard would it be to let it go?"

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

God's Design for Marriage (vv. 1-9)

1. Why does Jesus direct the Pharisees back to God's creation design for marriage?

2. What does this passage teach us about God's intentions for marriage?

3. How can believers honor God's design in their relationships today?

The Seriousness of Marriage (vv. 10-12)

4. What additional instruction does Jesus give His disciples about marriage and divorce?

5. What does this passage reveal about God's view of covenant commitment?

6. How can we reflect God's faithfulness in our commitments and relationships?

Receiving the Kingdom Like a Child (vv. 13-16)

7. Why was Jesus displeased with the disciples' treatment of the children?

8. What does it mean to receive the kingdom of God like a child?

9. How can you demonstrate greater dependence and trust in God?

The Rich Young Ruler (vv. 17-22)

10. What does Jesus expose about the rich man's heart?

11. Why was the man unwilling to follow Jesus completely?

12. What things can compete with Jesus for first place in our lives?

The Cost and Reward of Discipleship (vv. 23-31)

13. Why are the disciples astonished by Jesus' teaching about wealth?

14. What does Jesus teach about salvation and human effort?

15. How do Jesus' promises encourage those who sacrifice to follow Him?

The Way of the Cross (vv. 32-34)

16. What does Jesus reveal about the suffering that awaits Him in Jerusalem?

17. Why is it significant that Jesus willingly moves toward the cross?

18. What does following Jesus through sacrifice and obedience look like today?

Greatness Through Service (vv. 35-45)

19. What does the request of James and John reveal about their understanding of greatness?

20. How does Jesus redefine greatness in God's kingdom?

21. What opportunities do you have to serve others with humility this week?

The Faith That Follows (vv. 46-52)

22. What does Bartimaeus' persistence teach us about faith?

23. Why is Bartimaeus an example of true discipleship?

24. How can you demonstrate greater faith and obedience in your walk with Christ?

FINAL CHALLENGE

- Which encounter in Mark 10 challenged your thinking the most? Why?
- What is one area of your life that Jesus may be calling you to surrender more fully?
- Who are you intentionally helping follow Jesus, and what is your next step in discipling them?

QUESTIONS | REFLECTIONS | OBSERVATIONS
