



# WOODLAND HEIGHTS

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CHRISTIAN CHURCH

## Questions Jesus Asked: Drawing Near to the Lord Part #6 – What Do You Want Me to Do for You?

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### Small Group Discussion Guide on Mark 10:35-45

#### Woodland Heights Christian Church Core Value Connection

This sermon on Mark 10:35-45 aligns with the core value of **Discipleship** at Woodland Heights Christian Church. Discipleship is about growing into faithful followers who embrace God's kingdom priorities, humble themselves in service, and live out Christ's example of selflessness.

This sermon covering Mark 10:35-45 reveals the account of the ambitious request of James and John along with the response of Jesus. This response redirects our focus from worldly status to humble service, mirroring the disciple's journey of examining motivations, embracing sacrifice, and exemplifying servanthood. The sermon's Big Idea, "Greatness in God's Kingdom is Measured by Your Humble Service Not Your Worldly Status," challenges us to deepen our walk with Christ, aligning with our church's mission to teach believers to pursue eternal victory through servant-hearted living for the glory of God.

#### Section #1 – ENCOUNTER

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##### "Observing God's Word"

**Illustration:** Imagine standing at the base of a towering mountain, gazing up at its snow-capped peak. The climb seems impossible—steep, treacherous, and demanding everything you have. Yet a seasoned guide appears, pointing out a hidden path, urging you forward with wisdom and assurance. Would you follow the guide or keep trying to push forward on the path you are on?

This illustration helps us set the tone for our study as we anchor ourselves in Scripture. Read Mark 10:35-45 as a small group, family, or an individual, letting God's Word sink in. Picture the scene: Jesus journeying toward Jerusalem, the disciples approaching with a bold request, and Jesus seizing the moment to teach kingdom priorities.

##### Core Questions

- What do you notice about the disciples' words and actions in this story? Why is this relevant?
- What are key words, phrases, or themes that grab your attention in this text?

- What are the main lessons that you learn about the character of God from Mark 10?

## Section #2 – EXPLORE

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### “Understanding the Passage and Sermon”

Let’s unpack the big question from this sermon, “What do you want me to do for you?” and the three steps to a kingdom-focused life outlined in the message—Examine, Embrace, and Exemplify. Discuss these as a group or reflect on them as an individual.

**Quote** – “He who does not serve God where he is would not serve God anywhere else.” – **Charles Spurgeon**

- What does the quote from Spurgeon teach us today? Why does this lesson matter?

#### **Step #1 – Examine (Mark 10:35-37)**

The sermon highlights Jesus’ question in Mark 10:35-37 prompting us to examine our motivations, revealing the disciples’ self-centered request for positions of glory.

- How does the example James and John’s prompt you to examine your own desires?
- Have you ever found yourself driven by selfish ambition? How did it impact your walk with God?
- In what ways does Mark 10:35-37 challenge you as a Christian today?

#### **Step #2 – Embrace (Mark 10:38-40)**

Jesus responds by asking if they can drink His cup or share His baptism, pointing to the path of suffering before glory. The sermon emphasizes embracing the cost by remembering that: “**The Crown of Glory Comes Only After the Cup of Suffering.**”

- What does this teach us about the relationship between suffering and God’s kingdom?
- How can you embrace God’s will in difficult seasons, even when it feels overwhelming?
- How does the illustration of Dietrich Bonhoeffer apply to these verses?

#### **Step #3 – Exemplify (Mark 10:41-45)**

Jesus teaches that true greatness comes through servanthood, exemplifying it Himself as the Son of Man who came to serve and ransom many. The sermon calls us to say no to worldly ways and yes to servant-hearted living.

- What does this reveal about reversing worldly ideas of power and position?
- How can we exemplify Christ’s servanthood in our daily lives?

## Section #3 – EMBRACE

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### “Applying God’s Word”

**Quote:** “On Christ’s glory I fix my thoughts and desires. – John Owen

Choose to go deeper by exploring how Mark 10:35-45 and study the sermon’s insights that shape your life today. Discuss these application questions and commit to one actionable step this week.

#### *Personal Reflection*

- **Examine Your Motivations:** Like James and John, take time to reflect on your ambitions. Is there an area where selfish desires are overshadowing God’s kingdom? Write down one motivation to redirect toward humble service this week.
- **Embrace the Cost:** Identify a “cup of suffering” in your life – a challenge or sacrifice God may be calling you to endure. Spend a moment in prayer, asking for strength to embrace it, trusting that glory follows faithfulness.
- **Exemplify Servanthood:** Commit to one act of service this week, such as helping a neighbor, serving in church, or putting others first in your family. Discuss with the group how you can encourage each other to live as servants like Christ.

**Memorize and Reflect:** Memorize and Reflect: Memorize the sermon’s memory verse, Mark 10:45 (ESV): “For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” Reflect on how this verse challenges you to measure greatness by service. Share with the group how it inspires you.

### Closing Challenge and Prayer

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As a group, pray for one another to examine your heart, embrace God’s plan and path for your life, and to be courageous in choosing to exemplify servanthood. This week encourage each member to take at least one action step that they have learned from this message and follow up next week to share how God worked as you choose to put your faith into action.

Consider participating in a Sunday School class, a Wednesday study, or invite someone new to join your small group to continue growing in faith together.