

Sermon Discussion Guide

Encounters with Jesus: A Mother's Request
Matthew 20:17-28
May 9 & 10, 2020

This discussion guide is written in three sections. The first is for private/individual reflection. The second is for couples or for small groups who may be meeting via video or phone. The third contains questions for family discussion. As many of you are sheltering in place, we encourage you to continue to read the passage and study it throughout the week. This way you can meditate on new truths each day and discover new things God might teach you in his word.

Section 1: Individual Reflection

1. Growing up as a kid how did you define a great life? How about as an adult? In what ways have you bought into the idea of the “upward trajectory” of the great life?

2. Jesus’ definition of the great life is completely reorienting - instead of an upward trajectory, the great life has a downward trajectory. Take note and reflect on some of the ways that Jesus embodies/models this new definition.

3. Jesus declares that in his kingdom his followers are not going to act like the world - to follow him, to have a great life, will entail suffering and will include serving. Have you considered the application of this? Are you willing to subject yourself to suffering and offer your service to others?

4. What is the purpose of suffering and service? What impact does it make in your life and in the lives of others?

5. Consider how this sermon affects our head, heart and hands. What does the passage teach us - what knowledge/information do we gain from this passage (head)? What does this passage show us about our sinfulness and how our affections need to be changed by the gospel (heart)? How should this passage change our actions - what do we need to do or think in our everyday life because of these truths (hands)?

Section 2: Couple/Small Group Discussion

1. What portions of the sermon were most significant and helpful to you? Summarize some of your answers from the previous section.

2. Ray said the way of the follower of Jesus is more the pool boy than the pool owner, it's more the mechanic than the fancy car owner, it's more the landscaper than the yard owner? How does this inform your worldview of work, suffering, sacrifice and service?

3. Ray said that the more you pour out your life, the more life you'll get. How could this be true? Where have you specifically experienced an example of this?

4. What was Jesus' ultimate model of the sacrificial life of suffering? What made it so significant and how has it changed you personally?

Part 3: Family Discussion

1. Share with your kids your reflections from Sections 1 and 2. Ask them to share some of their highlights from the sermon and see if they can summarize it.

2. Share with your kids how you're guilty of pursuing the upward trajectory of the "great life" and how you've experienced joy in the downward trajectory of the "great life" of following Jesus.

3. The legacy of God's family is marked by suffering and service. Discuss with your kids how this should and can inform your family's legacy?