

## Small Group Guide

### HE CAME TO SERVE THE HELPLESS

*The Church at Brook Hills,*

*Dr. David Platt*

*December 13, 2009*

*Mark 10:35-45*

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This guide is to help you facilitate discussion with your Small Group. Use it as a resource to lead your group in discovering and owning the truths of God's Word. There may be questions you do not want to use and there may be instances where you just want to focus on a particular point or truth. Some questions may bring out emotions and cause people to dwell on their relationship with God. Your role is to facilitate this experience not to complete the discussion guide. Use this as a flexible teaching tool not a rigid teaching task list.

### **Connect . . .**

*Use one or both of the following options to introduce the discussion time to follow.*

#### **Option 1**

Encourage learners to discuss all of the various authority figures in their lives. Then, ask: **What people in your lives are authority figures and servants at the same time?** Invite learners to share how these people have influenced their lives. Explain that today we will look at how Jesus came with authority, yet also to be a servant.

#### **Option 2**

Invite learners to share about a time in their life when they had to accept help from others. Encourage them to discuss how accepting help made them feel and whether or not accepting this help was difficult. If it was difficult, have them share why. Explain that today we will study how following Christ requires that we accept His help.

### **Review the Message . . .**

#### **Why He Came...**

- Jesus came to suffer.
- Jesus came to save.
- Jesus came to be our substitute.
- Jesus came to show us how to live.
- Jesus came to serve us.

#### **Discussion**

- Enlist a learner to read Mark 10:35-45.
- What are the two purposes that Jesus gave for His coming in Verse 45?
- Enlist three learners to read Mark 8:31, 9:31, and 10:33-34. What are the implications of Jesus revealing to His disciples the plan for Him to die? How does this revelation testify to His humanity and His divinity?
- Explain that the word "for" in the phrase "a ransom for many" in Verse 45 carries the meaning of being in place of someone. How does this meaning and the word "ransom" give a picture of why Jesus came to die and what He did for our sin?
- How does Christ's purpose "to serve" accompany His purpose to die?

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#### Application . . .

- When we celebrate Christmas, why must we always see its importance within the sights of Easter?
- Jesus was intentional in fulfilling His purpose. If we live with intentionality toward fulfilling His calling on our lives as His followers, how might our lives look differently?
- How does the idea of being ransomed affect how we see ourselves before God?
- How does seeing Jesus as a substitute for our sin affect how we see Him as a baby in a manger?

#### What This Means...

- Jesus is our servant.
  - This does not mean that we tell Jesus what to do.
  - This does mean that He gives us what we need.
- We are Jesus' servants.
  - This does not mean that Jesus needs our aid.
  - This does mean that we submit to Jesus' authority.

#### Discussion

- Explain that the word used for “serve” means to wait on, to cater to, or to help. It is the same word we get deacon from today.
- What is the difference between a servant with authority and a servant as a slave?
- What does Jesus' intent to serve indicate about His desire to equip His followers?
- Why is Jesus' servant attitude necessary for us as His followers to fulfill His calling on our lives?
- Read Acts 17:25. If Jesus doesn't need our help, why does He call us to be a part of His purpose?

#### Application . . .

- How can our view of a servant inadequately influence our thoughts of Jesus as a servant?
- Is it easier to submit to someone's authority who is a servant or to someone who is a dictator? Why?

#### How We Respond...

- Trust Jesus to serve you.
  - Jesus' service to us enables our obedience to Him.
- Exalt Jesus by serving others.
  - Our service to others demonstrates His sacrifice for us.

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#### **Application . . .**

- Why is our submission to Him a necessary part of fulfilling His calling on our lives?
- We can have negative connotations that go along with the idea of being a servant. How does Christ' example serve to demonstrate that servanthood is necessary for the Gospel?
- Why is trusting Christ to empower us to do His will so difficult in a culture that often portrays independence as desirable?
- What are the implications to our everyday lives when we trust Jesus to serve us?
- Why can allowing Jesus to serve us provide conflict with our own egos?
- How does allowing Jesus to serve you provide freedom from false expectations and vain striving?
- How can we follow Jesus example of exalting God through serving?
- How does being a servant affect our attitudes, our actions, and our priorities?
- How is Christ magnified through our lives when we allow Christ to serve through us?