

## Follow-up Bible Studies

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### Day One: Matthew 18:1-5

- What did the disciples ask Jesus (1)? What do you think prompted them to ask this; what must they have been talking about among themselves? When do you find yourself considering who or what is the greatest? What does it mean to be the greatest?
- What did Jesus then do (2)? Picture this scene in your mind's eye: Is the child a boy or a girl? What age? How is Jesus physically interacting with the child? Did he already know the child? How do you think this child felt to be with Jesus in this moment?
- Summarize Jesus' words (3-5). Why do you think he begins so many of his proclamations with "truly"? First, he says we must change if we even want to *enter* the kingdom. What does this mean for you? Second, we must take a "lowly position" in order to be "the greatest." What do children have to teach us about lowly position? Finally, if we welcome children with God's love, we welcome Jesus. What challenge does this present to you?

### Day Two: Mark 15:21-41

- Who carried Jesus' cross (21)? What did the soldiers do to Jesus (23-24)? What other details does the gospel writer include (25-27)? Describe the way different people treated Jesus (29-32). What happened from noon to 3pm (33-34)? How did people respond (35-36)? Describe the moment of Jesus' death (37-39).
- During this time, what were Jesus' female friends doing (40-41)? Contrast their behavior with that of the centurion (39). Surprisingly, someone of worldly greatness – a Roman soldier – *and* those of low estate – Jewish women – were drawn to Jesus at his death. Why? Tell the Lord how *you* feel about his death.
- Now, read Hebrews 11:24-26. At his gruesome and humiliating execution, Jesus exchanged the privilege of divinity for the lowest experience of humanity. Where else in the gospels do you see Jesus making this sort of exchange? What is one way you can express this element of Jesus to others?

### Day Three: Luke 22:24-30

- During the Last Supper, what dispute arose (24)? Consider this recurring argument among the disciples. Maybe you often bicker about something that misses the mark of discipleship. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal it to you, and pray for grace to let it go.
- What picture of worldly greatness did Jesus paint for the disciples (25)? Today, where do you see oppression cloaked in false

benevolence? How does Jesus steer the disciples away from that definition of greatness (26)? What challenges does this verse present to you? What opportunities are there for you to be like “the youngest” or “the one who serves”? What would this cost you?

- What rhetorical questions did Jesus ask (27)? God himself – the absolute greatest – is “among us as one who serves.” Where do you see evidence of this? Summarize the encouraging remarks Jesus then makes (28-30). Whenever God asks you to make a change that will cost you something, what solace is found here?

#### **Day Four: Ephesians 5:8-17**

- What before-and-after scenario is Paul writing about (8)? Consider what it means to *be* darkness or to *be* light. As you contemplate, what is God speaking? What does Paul tell us to do (8-10)? What about what *not* to do (11-12)? In what ways do you heed Paul’s commands? In what ways do you disobey them?
- When something is exposed to the light, what happens (13)? Think about how this relates to change: if you are blind to problems or if you never take a closer look, you’ll miss chances to change for the better. In this season of your life, what needs illuminated? What does God want the eyes of your heart to see? Pray for willingness to look and to make a change.
- What saying supports Paul’s argument (14)? Both spiritually and practically, what does it mean to “wake up” and “rise”? To Paul, what does waking up and shining light on things look like (15-17)? What is one change you can make to better walk this out?

#### **Day Five: Philippians 2:1-11**

- What is Paul saying we should presently have in Christ, even if only in small doses (1)? Which of these attributes prove most helpful during times of change? Give thanks to God. How can we make Paul’s “joy complete” (2-4)? Where do you see this sacrificial love in action? Where is it not found? How do *you* demonstrate this “true greatness” of sacrificial love? What is one practical way to more faithfully express it to the world?
- Paul wants us to relate to one another with a Jesus mindset. What does this entail (6-8)? All for love, Jesus stepped down into humanity. What change is God inviting you to make “all for love”?
- What does Jesus’ sacrificial obedience mean for his eternal destiny (9-11)? Imagine a lifetime of service and willingness to change. What do you think would await you in eternity? What resolve or inspiration does this offer to you now?

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