

SCRIPTURE CARD GUIDE FOR GROUP DISCUSSION

"THE RANSOM" MARCH 19 & 20

SERIES OVERVIEW:

More than any other historical figure Jesus has been studied and written about and yet so many still wonder, who is Jesus, really? Cutting through the noise is the fast paced action packed Gospel of Mark. Mark presents the life of Jesus in two symmetrical acts: His IDENTITY as the King over all things and His PURPOSE in dying on the cross. As we explore the life of Jesus we will find Him to be unpredictable but reliable, meek but powerful, authoritative but humble, human but divine. As we encounter Jesus we must all consider the significance of the life of Jesus the King in our own lives.

*Follow the directions below for a guided group discussion with a friend, in a family, small group, etc.
Grab a Scripture Card (printed or electronic) and simply follow steps from 1 to 6 on this page and the next.*

1

OPENING PRAYER AND SCRIPTURE:

About 3 minutes

Ask a volunteer to open in prayer. Consider reading Isaiah 53 as a reminder of the ransom paid by Jesus on our behalf.

2

BIG IDEA:

A seconds to read

Three times Jesus clearly declares to His disciples that He must suffer, die, and rise again in order to be The Ransom that the world needs. It is easy to point the finger at the disciples for completely missing what Jesus said, but the better question is what are we missing?

3

INTRO QUESTIONS:

About 10 minutes

Who do you know that shows great strength and great humility in what they do and how they do it.

How would you define humility? How would you know if you were serving others out of a place of humility?



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“For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many.” - Mark 10:45 NLT

Reflect

Read the full passage in your Bible - Mark 10:35-45.

What word or phrase is the Holy Spirit highlighting from the scripture reading?

What might be God's invitation to you in this?

What might be God's challenge to you in this?

How might God be calling you to respond?
Be curious...and then do it.

4

SCRIPTURE READING + GROUP DISCUSSION

About 40-45 minutes

Read Mark 8:31-32, 9:30-32, and 10:33-34. Jesus clearly proclaims that He will suffer, die and rise from the dead. Why do you think the disciples couldn't understand what Jesus was telling them?

James and John were missing the point of their role in this Kingdom work as a servant, by their question. The rest of the disciples may have missed it too (See Mark 10:41). Do you think we can sometimes miss this point? Explain why or why not?

The bitter cup of suffering and baptism of suffering (v38) speak to the divine punishment for sin that Jesus took on our behalf. How quickly would you have responded to Jesus' question here? Would you have any questions for Him before answering?

In what specific ways have you seen Jesus followers be so loving and self-sacrificial that people who think very differently from them, took notice and were overwhelmed in love and appreciation?

DISCUSSION HELP:

Use follow-up questions to take the discussion deeper. Guide answers to be honest and real.

Can you say more about that?

How have you seen that play out in your life?

What does that stir up in you?

Has anyone else had a similar thought or experience?

What might God be inviting you to do?

5 LIVE IT OUT:
About 3 minutes

Read this section aloud. Invite the group to take the steps suggested. Have the group take a few minutes of silence and reflect on these questions. Invite Jesus to speak to them in this time of reflection and meditation.

TAKE IT DEEPER



Live It Out 

The focus is on becoming more like Jesus this week. Start with humbling yourself before God. Then set your heart to live love in a practical way by serving someone this week who isn't easy or part of your routine. Ask God, "who is it?", then make a plan and reach out with Jesus' love.

Pray 

Talk to God about the real stuff going on in your heart when it comes to serving others vs. wanting to be served.

Ask God to renew your heart and perspective on the cross, on the magnitude of Jesus' ransom for your sins.

Think of someone you know who clearly lives a life of serving others and thank God for them. Bonus...send them a note of encouragement.

6

CLOSING GROUP PRAYER:

About 10 minutes

Read the prayer section on the card aloud, and take a few moments of silence for each person to reflect on the prayer prompt personally.

Write your name at the top of an index card. Then write the following sentences and complete the blanks. Pass your card to the person on your LEFT. Close with a circle prayer reading aloud the prayer on the card you hold. The leader may begin and end the time of prayer.

"Dear Jesus, I praise and thank you for_____. Help me to live a life worthy of Your sacrifice.

Give me [Enter one word here] this week as I serve and love others.

Thank you for [Enter name of someone you know] who has shown me a living example of Your life of service to others. Amen."