



SESSION 3 | MAR 19, 2023

## How Did It Go

- How did last week's passage and its implications play out in prayer this past week? What did the Spirit prompt you to pray for/about?
- Were you able to take any small steps of obedience to follow Jesus more humbly?
- Did you ask God who to pray for this week, that they might come to know Him? Were you surprised by anyone that He brought to mind?

## Read Aloud the Passage

**Matthew 20:20-28**

## Discuss

**HEAD | 10–15 MINUTES**

Observe the text and the author's main points.

1. First-century Jewish culture afforded older women a significant place of respect. As such, James and John's mother may have been able to ask this question—while they would never dare! Given this, do you think this was really their mother's request? Or did they put her up to it?
2. Jesus asks "Zebedee's sons" a question in verse 22. What is it? What do you think He means? What do you make of their answer?

3. Jesus uses this tense situation amongst His disciples to teach them about power in the Kingdom of God. What does He say? How is Jesus' teaching related to His own life and ministry?

## HEART | 15-20 MINUTES

Envision how the text—when applied—might transform your inner life in terms of your thoughts, attitudes, and behaviors.

1. Jesus' question in verse 21 is similar to His very first question in the Gospel of John (see John 1:38). Pause for a moment. Imagine yourself approaching Jesus. He turns to you and asks: "What do you want?" What would you say and why?
2. In verses 25-28, Jesus offers both a positive and a negative example. What are they? How would you put them in your own words?
3. Where are you tempted to desire power, prestige, or privilege?
4. What opportunities do you have to "become great" by serving others?

## HANDS | 10 MINUTES

Apply the text by moving from inward reflection to outward action looking for ways to live the text out in our lives to serve others.

### Reaching Upwards: Growing in Your Relationship with God

- Each day this week, read and reflect upon Philippians 2:1-11. Ask God's Spirit to reveal ways in which you can increasingly mirror the mindset of Jesus by the power of the Holy Spirit.

### Reaching Outward: Investing in Your Neighbors

- Find someone to intentionally serve this week, then after doing so, spend time reflecting on the ways Jesus served us—even giving His life in our place.

### Reaching Beyond

- Are there any other ways the Holy Spirit is leading you to put this passage into practice? How can you respond without delay to the Spirit's conviction?