

**KEY SCRIPTURE:**

*“But Jesus called them to him and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles Lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. **It shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant,**”*  
Matthew 20:25-26 ESV

*“For you have been called to live in freedom, my brothers and sisters. But don’t use your freedom to satisfy your sinful nature. **Instead, use your freedom to serve one another in love.**”*  
Galatians 5:13 NLT

*“But Jesus answered by saying to them, “**You don’t know what you are asking!** Are you able to drink from the bitter cup of suffering I am about to drink?” “Oh yes,” they replied, “we are able!””* Matthew 20:22 NLT

*“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.**””* Matthew 20:28 NLT

*“It must not be like that among you. On the contrary, whoever wants to become great among you **must be your servant,** and whoever wants to be first among you **must be your slave;**”* Matthew 20:26-27 CSB

*“For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.’ Then the righteous will answer him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?’ And the King will answer them, **‘Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.**”* Matthew 25:35-40 ESV

*“In his grace, God has given us different gifts for doing certain things well. So if God has given you the ability to.....”* Romans 12:6-8 NLT

*“God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another. Do you have the gift of ..... Then everything you do will bring glory to God through Jesus Christ. All glory and power to him forever and ever! Amen.”* 1 Peter 4:10-11 NLT

*“and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. For to one is given through the Spirit ...**But earnestly desire the higher gifts.** And I will show you a still more excellent way.”* 1 Corinthians 12:5-11, 29-31 ESV

**Start Reading:** Matthew 20:20-28. Add context by glancing at the headings of the surrounding sections of Scripture as well.

**Start Talking.** Find a conversation starter for your group.

- Do you have a story about a time when you or a friend made a sacrifice to accomplish something important?

**Start Thinking.** Ask a question to get your group thinking.

- Build as much context as you can around Matthew 20. What do you think it would have been like to be in this conversation between Jesus, his aunt Salome, and the 12 disciples?
- Why does great impact require great sacrifice? What are some examples of people you know who have had to sacrifice to make an impact?
- What are some common life goals that compete with the life goal of being a servant as Jesus described in Matthew 20?

**Start Sharing.** Choose a question to create openness.

- What was the most impactful part of the message to you and why?
- Keep Matthew 20 in mind and read Galatians 5:13. Then consider this question: Is Jesus leading you to make an impact that will require a level of sacrifice in your life? And are you embracing Jesus’ leading and making that impact or rejecting the sacrifice needed to do what Jesus is leading you to do? Expand to the best of your ability.
- Scripture gives two categories of serving: 1) General (or universal) Christian responsibility, and 2) Serving with spiritual gifts. What are some of the general responsibilities that Christians have? How can you maximize your life to serve in those areas regardless of your gifts?
- Why is it important to serve even while you are still discovering your gifts and passion and how can serving help you discover your gifts?
- It is easy to mistakenly apply the lessons from Matthew 20 in a “lone wolf” fashion. Why is it essential to live out these lessons in Christian Community?

**Start Praying.** Pray this prayer in your own words with your group.

*Father in Heaven, thank you for loving us enough to teach us truths that are difficult, yet helpful to us. Help us to embrace a Matthew 20 mindset of being a servant. Help us to prioritize serving you and making the impact you created us for. Thank you for serving us. Though you are King of All, you served, even onto death for us, you servants. We are eternally grateful and want to follow the pattern you modeled for us. This is difficult and cannot be done without your help. Please help us. In Jesus’ name, amen!*

**Start Doing.** Commit to a step and live it out this week.

- Instead of trying to address every area of sacrificial living all at once, find one step to move forward and grow as a servant of God.
  - Be specific.
  - Put a reminder in your phone’s calendar for once per week, each week and/or ask a friend to challenge you weekly for 2 months.