

Small Group Guide



Ice Breaker

Share a time when someone served you in a meaningful way. How did it impact you?

Key Takeaways

1. The Culture's Countercurrent

- We won't drift into godly habits—we'll drift away from them
- Our culture operates on strength, force, and power (the "iron laws" of the world)
- The world measures greatness by dominance and self-protection

2. Jesus' Radical Alternative

- "Not so with you" (Matthew 20:25-26)
- Greatness in God's kingdom is measured by service, not dominance
- Success is measured by faithfulness, love, and service—not control or possessions

3. The Cross and Resurrection Pattern

- Jesus, though equal with God, made himself nothing and became a servant (Philippians 2:6-8)
- The cross looked like failure; the resurrection proved it was victory
- Love wins, and the way of Jesus will conquer all

Understanding the Message

1. What stood out to you most from this sermon? Why?
2. Jeff said, "You're not going to drift into serving. You're going to drift into taking and consuming." Do you agree? Where do you see this drift in your own life?

3. How would you describe the difference between the world's definition of greatness and Jesus' definition of greatness?

Going Deeper

4. Read Philippians 2:6-11 together. What does it mean that Jesus "did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage"? How does this challenge our view of power and privilege?
5. The sermon stated "Servants measure success by faithfulness, not outcomes." Why is this so difficult? What outcomes are you most tempted to measure your life by?
6. Jesus' way of service led to the cross. What fears or concerns come up when you think about truly following Jesus in service, knowing it may be costly?

Personal Reflection

7. Jeff applied serving to five areas: friendships, marriage, work, community, and church. Which area feels most challenging for you right now? Why?
8. In which of these areas are you most prone to ask "What's in it for me?" or "Am I getting my share?"
 - Friendships
 - Marriage/family
 - Work
 - Community
 - Church
9. What would it look like practically for you to "stop keeping score" in one specific relationship this week?