



# Small Group Study Guide for March 17, 2024

*Our Savior Lutheran Church and School*

**Theme: “Servant Leadership”** James and John ask Jesus if they can sit at His right and left hand in glory. But it turns out, they don’t know what they are asking for. For the cup that Christ would drink from was full of God’s wrath. The baptism that He would be baptized with was one of fire and suffering. Jesus would take the blame for mankind’s sin and shame. He tells us the way to greatness in the kingdom of God is through servanthood. Through word and deed, Christ displays servant leadership. He shows a strong desire to love His people and ultimately give His life as a ransom for many. As Christians, we are called to love God and love others. To serve is to respond to the joy we have in the gospel. May our prayer be for renewed hearts, as we follow after our Servant King.

## **Getting Started: (sharing with each other)**

1. What are a few places where you experienced the best service around?
2. Do you enjoy being served? What do you find to be the most rewarding or demanding when receiving service?

## **In the Word: Read Mark 10:35-45**

3. James and John come to Jesus with a bold imperative statement: “We want you to do for us whatever we ask.” What do you think about this approach to God? How might this comment be a reflection of some of our prayers and desires?
4. In verse 38, Christ speaks of a cup that has to be drained and a baptism that must be undergone. Our Lord drinks the cup of wrath in His death and is baptized in the worst form of suffering. But how will the disciples also take part in this? What does this mean for Christians in our situation today?
6. The disciples are then warned of how the world works. Rulers lord their authority over the Gentiles. How does this reflect the majority of governing systems functioning in our world today?

7. Read 1 Samuel 8:4-9. How did this case study of Israel's ambition to be "great" turn out for them? What does God tell Samuel in verse 7 about what ambition does to our relationship with God?

8. In his treatise, "The Freedom of a Christian," Martin Luther writes two seemingly contradictory claims:

*A Christian is a perfectly free lord of all, subject to none.*

*A Christian is a perfectly dutiful servant of all, subject to everyone.*

How does this relate to Jesus' words for us in verses 43-45?

**Putting it all Together (what do we believe or do as disciples?)**

10. How have you been uniquely blessed to serve?

11. How does ambition give us tunnel vision? How are we affected by ambitious goals for ourselves?

12. Can you both lead, and be a servant? What does servant-leadership look like in our everyday lives?

**Prayer:** Gracious God, we thank You each day for being a Servant King. You are a God of love, and compassion, and Your actions demonstrate service for Your people. Transform our hearts to serve, and lead us to rejoice in the joy of your salvation, through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

**Next Week:** Next week, our Lenten journey comes to a climax with Holy Week. Jesus enters Jerusalem on Palm Sunday with shouts of Hosanna! But did they really know what Jesus was there to do? Our last midweek service for our series, "The Colors of the Cross," will deal with Jesus' gruesome suffering and the pain He endured for our salvation.