



Small Group Study Guide for November 23, 2025

Our Savior Lutheran Church and School

Theme: Serving as a Family: In the family of God, we serve with humble hearts, putting others above ourselves. This is so different from the world's way of thinking. We find our purpose in serving others, just as Jesus did not come to be served, but to serve, and give His life as a ransom for many.

Getting Started: (sharing with each other)

1. What are you looking forward to about Thanksgiving?
2. When was the last time you did a service project or volunteered/served alongside a family member?

In the Word: Read Malachi 3:13-18

3. God quotes the people who are speaking arrogantly against Him when they say, "It is futile to serve God." What is the complaint of these arrogant people as expressed in verses 14 and 15?
4. Can you think of general instances where it looks like people who disobey God 'get away with it' or prosper by doing evil?
5. The Lord knows those who are His. The Lord writes down our names in His book of life. It is a list of those who fear Him and honor his name (vs 16). How does the Lord describe those on the list in verse 17 and 18?

Read Romans 12:3-8

6. The word 'grace' is mentioned two times in verses 3-8. Find the two times. The same word follows the word 'grace' each time. What is it, and why is it significant?
7. Why does Paul first mention humility in verse 3 *before* talking about using our different gifts to serve the Lord in the body of Christ?

8. Why is the one body with many members such a brilliant illustration for the Christian church?

9. List the gifts given to believers that are mentioned in 6-8. How many are there? What gifts do you think you have?

Read Matthew 20:20-28

10. The mother of James and John (Zebedee's wife) wanted her sons to have positions of power and prestige. Why and how does our world still clamor after such things?

11. Jesus declines this request by saying that only the Father knows to whom He will give these positions. What does that say about God's role in elevating people into positions of responsibility?

12. Jesus' disciples were to be different. They were to live a different way. They were to be servants of all. We won't do this perfectly, but we strive for it. What does verse 26 and 27 mean to you?

13. How can Jesus' life of service and His call to servanthood shape you and your family this Thanksgiving and in the coming holidays?

Prayer: Take prayer requests. Ask God to bless our Thanksgiving and the coming Advent season, that we can keep our hearts and minds focused on God, the giver of all good gifts, and on Jesus, the greatest gift we have ever received.

Next Week: On the 1st Sunday of Advent, we begin our series on the four candles of the Advent Wreath, starting with the Hope candle. Jesus is our Hope! Do you have an Advent Wreath? (available in the lobby or online)