

GO DEEPER

use these questions for further study

Pray the Lord's Prayer together or individually to begin the time (Mtt 6:9-13).

Read Mark 1:16-20 & 3:13-19

What do you learn about James from these passages?
If Jesus were to give you a nickname, what might it be?

Read Luke 9:1-6

How do you think James and the other Apostles felt after Jesus gave them this commission and authority? In what ways could this authority be misunderstood by someone like James?

Read Luke 9:28-36

Who does Jesus bring with him? Why these three? How might this experience impact James' understanding of himself and his status?

Read Luke 9:46-48

What are the disciples arguing about? Why? How does Jesus respond?

Read Luke 9:51-56

Where was Jesus going? What events were on the horizon?
Jesus had always shown good will toward the Samaritans, why would they refuse to welcome him?
Why do James and John respond this way? What is influencing them?
Why does Jesus rebuke them?
What kind of leader would James have been at this point?

Read Mark 10:35-45

How does James seem to understand greatness?
How does Jesus define greatness?
What are some of the things that the world around us defines as great?
According to the world's standards, how do we know who "great" or "successful" people are? How is this at odds with what Jesus teaches?

Pastor Adam said that in the Kingdom of God greatness is service not status, faithfulness not success, sacrifice not selfishness. What does this mean?

How is God inviting you to practically live into this?
Where is a place you can serve?
What is a sacrifice you need to make so that you can more fully love God and love others?
Where are you called to elevate faithfulness over "success"?

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S E R M O N N O T E S

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