

Community Circle Discussion Questions

Check in Questions (to be used each meeting)

Where did you see God at work this week or over the past weeks?

What challenges have you encountered?

Where have you experienced joy?

How have you been aware of God's grace in your life?

What are you concerned about? (Today or upcoming)

Lectionary Reading (Week of Sept. 19, 2021: Mark 9:30-37)

Participants reads the scripture:

Jesus Again Foretells His Death and Resurrection

³⁰ They went on from there and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it; ³¹ for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, "The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again." ³² But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him.

Who Is the Greatest?

³³ Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, "What were you arguing about on the way?" ³⁴ But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest. ³⁵ He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, "Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all." ³⁶ Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, ³⁷ "Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me."

Discussion Questions

How do you think the disciples felt about what Jesus told them about his death?

It seems like the disciples were anxious to ask Jesus to explain after they were confused. Do we find it hard to admit it when we don't fully understand something?

What kind of questions do we avoid asking? Why?

What do you think Jesus means in verse 35?

Follow up: How could we live out that ideal in our own life?

Going Deeper (Optional)

At the end of the passage, Jesus tells the disciples that it is not just him that they are accepting, but God as well. What are the ways we can accept God into our own lives?