

SG Discussion Questions

for Personal Study and Small Groups 9/15/13

When Being Last is a Good Thing... Matthew 20.1-19

Purpose of SG: to foster in its members the biblical values of worship (God), discipleship (church), and outreach (lost).

2013 Annual Focus: Drawing Near to the Good and Mighty King.

Announcements: (1) "Serve" sign ups, (2) SGL Day Retreat is 9/21 from 9am-4:30pm at Durant Nature Park, and (3) Men's Retreat 10/4-6.

SG Discussion Questions:

Focus: to exalt God as the sovereign, just, generous Lord who lavishes grace upon the underserving and the needy while rebuking those who judge themselves as more deserving.

Read 20.1-16. Describe the master of the house. What is this story trying to teach us about God?

Why do you think the first servants were disgruntled? How can we find ourselves in their shoes where we are grumpy towards God?

What is the difference the story is trying to point out as the main difference between the last and the first? How can we grow in our "lastness"?

How is this story related to Peter's question in 19.27? and to the rich young ruler? and to Jesus' teaching on the children in 19.13-15?

Are you aware of any attitudes of "Firstness" creeping into your thoughts? How can this story help you check those thoughts? How can the teaching of 20.17-20 help?

What helps you stay in the place of "lastness"? How would you even define "lastness"? Again, relate it to the teaching that follows in 20.17-20.