SG Discussion Questions

for Personal Study and Small Groups 9/22/13

How to Be Truly Great Matthew 20.20-34

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) Men's Retreat 10/4-6, (3) Evangelism Champion.

SG Discussion Questions:

Focus: to help the church value servanthood above power and prestige as the measure of true greatness.

Read 20.20-28. Swap stories of people you know that model what Jesus is calling us to in this passage, i.e. great servants to others. Why is this so very important for us as followers of Christ?

What do you make of the 2 disciples' (and their Mom's!) request of Jesus? What is driving that? How is this shockingly contrary to what Jesus has been teaching earlier in this chapter (and in ch. 19)? How can we fall prey to those same temptations?

How is Jesus' teaching on leadership contrary to the leadership of their age? How is it contrary to our modern day concepts of greatness and leadership?

What do verses 26-27 mean for you as a follower of Jesus? How should this shape your family life? your work life? the way you interact with neighbors?

Do you think Jesus is simply redefining greatness or is he telling us to abandon the idea of greatness altogether? Is it possible to want to be a slave and be great at the same time?

Unpack verse 28... what does it teach you about Jesus and his death for you?

Is there a takeaway for you from this passage? What is God prompting you to do to follow in Jesus' way of "not coming to be served, but to serve"?