

## A Greater Church

## Pastor Don Brock

*Use this guide by yourself, with a friend, or in a group to help you pursue a deeper relationship with Jesus this week!*

### Open

Today Pastor Don reminds us that humility is a necessary characteristic of a church that God will use to do amazing things in His Kingdom. And thankfully, the humility that God is looking for doesn't mean that He wants His people to muster up feelings of worthlessness - instead the Bible is clear that true humility happens when we recognize our dependence on God and offer ourselves in service to Him and others. Then, when we as a church come together with this attitude, that's we'll see Him work through us. So to get your group's conversation started, let everyone share about the most humble person they've ever known and the impact that person's life has had...

### BIG THOUGHT

If we'll follow Jesus' instructions to serve and give to the people around us in humility, the Church will be used by God in great ways.

1. Apparently humility didn't come naturally for a couple of Jesus' disciples - who also happened to be brothers! Read Mark 10:35. Have you ever had someone close to you try to set you up to give the answer he or she was hoping you'd give (like a child!)? How did that feel? Do you think Jesus can tell where James and John are trying to lead the conversation? Explain your thoughts.
2. Now read v. 36-37. How does Jesus demonstrate His wisdom in the way He answers them in v. 36? For what did they ask? (v. 37) In the culture of that day, the most important person sat in the middle, the second most important on their right, and the third on their left - which means what are the brothers really asking for? Does it surprise you that a couple of Jesus' own disciples are displaying such a prideful attitude? Why or why not?

3. To help understand how clueless James and John really are, read v. 32-34. Where were Jesus and the disciples going? (v. 32) How did Jesus use His time with them? (v. 32b) What did He tell the disciples? (v. 33-34) How does the brothers' sense of timing confirm their lack of self-awareness? How can pride tend to put our insecurities on display for all to see?
4. Now read v. 38-41. Paraphrase Jesus' response in v. 38. How did the brothers continue to show their pride? (v. 39) And what did Jesus finally tell them to help correct their attitudes? (v. 40) How did the brothers' pride cause division in the group? (v. 41) Have you ever seen pride destroy a team or group before? Share what happened if you can.
5. To finish, read v. 42-45. What does Jesus say is the key to achieving great things? (v. 43) How does Jesus Himself show us true humility? (v. 45) What do you think would be the reputation and influence of Jesus' followers today if they (as the Church) adopted v. 43-45 as their foundational commitment? Explain.

### Take it Further

Talk with God and ask Him to give you opportunities to serve Him and the people around you with humility.

#### Daily Readings

Day 1: Proverbs 29:23

Day 2: James 4:10

Day 3: Proverbs 18:12

Day 4: Philippians 2:3

Day 5: 1 Corinthians 10:12

Day 6: Proverbs 11:2

Memory Verses: Mark 10:43-44



**GATEWAY**  
BAPTIST CHURCH

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