

## COMMUNITY GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Fall 2024 - Salty Church - "Freedom to Serve"

Monday, Oct.. 14 - Sunday, Oct. 20 (Week 6)

**EMPHASIS FOR THE MONTH:** **Model Vulnerability.** As you are continuing to build relationships and trust within your group, my encouragement to you as leaders is to begin to model vulnerability. This will be essential for your group to begin to take steps towards going deeper with one another. If your group members see you "going there" they are more likely to follow your lead and, "go there" as well.

**ICE BREAKER:** Who is someone in your life that exemplifies servant leadership? What qualities do they possess that inspire you?

### **CAB ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

1. Our next Young-ish Gathering will take place on Saturday, October 19 at 11 AM. We will meet at Pennings Farm Market in Warwick, NY. Let us know you're coming by clicking the link in the Monday email newsletter. If you have any questions, please contact our Connections Director, Jackie Levesque. (\*Young-ish Gatherings are targeted to those aged 20's-30's.)
2. Our next Covenant Member Gathering is scheduled for Sunday, November 3 at 12 PM. If you are a covenant member or being installed as a covenant member, please be sure to check your email for important information and to RSVP.
3. In place of weekly prayer gatherings for the month of October, we are encouraging everyone to take weekly walks around your neighborhood and pray for your neighbors and community. After Prayer Emphasis Month, we will begin to meet again for weekly prayer meetings in the month of November. We want to hear how your weekly prayer walks are going! Send us an email and share your stories with us. *\*No weekly prayer gatherings at church for the month of October.*

**PRAYER FOR DISCUSSION:** Leader or Co-Leader prays for the discussion time. Pray that the The Holy Spirit would assist in the conversing, processing, and listening of the discussion.

**SERMON DISCUSSION TIME:** Have someone read the passage: Mark 10:35-52, and then read this sermon summary to jog everyone's memory:

*In this sermon titled, "Freedom to Serve" Pastor McKinney emphasizes the need for Christians to embody the "saltiness" that Jesus spoke of, which reflects a life filled with His presence and love. The main focus of the message is on the idea that true greatness in the kingdom of God is found in servanthood. Drawing from Mark chapter ten, Pastor Mike discusses a conversation between Jesus and His disciples, where two of them, James and John, ask for positions of honor. Jesus uses this request to illustrate the contrast between worldly views of power and the kingdom's call to service. He teaches that to be great, one must become a servant and that true leadership in the church requires humility and the willingness to put others first. Additionally, Pastor McKinney reinforces that freedom to serve comes not just from having time, but from a heart liberated from self-interest. He argues that self-centeredness is the greatest obstacle to effective service and reminds us that the essence of Jesus'*



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*mission was to serve others and give His life. The sermon concludes with an invitation to evaluate our own life and consider how we might lay down personal interests to serve those around us, echoing Jesus' model of self-giving love.*

**QUESTION #1:** How does the concept of "freedom to serve" differ from simply having free time to serve? What does it mean to have a "freed heart" to serve?

**QUESTION #2:** In what areas of your life do you find it challenging to serve others? What might be holding you back from serving more freely?

**QUESTION #3:** How does the seesaw analogy of honoring Jesus by going down so He can go up resonate with you? Can you identify areas in your life where you might be trying to lift yourself up instead?

**QUESTION #4:** How do you reconcile the desire for greatness with the call to serve? How can you pursue true greatness in the kingdom of God?

**QUESTION #5:** What is one practical step you can take this week to serve someone in your community or church? How can you ensure that this act of service is about lifting Jesus up rather than yourself?

**QUESTION #6:** How can this group support each other in becoming more freed to serve? Is there a specific area where you would like prayer or accountability?

**PRAY TOGETHER:** Spend time taking *and recording* prayer requests and then pray together as a group (*I strongly encourage you to send out the prayer requests weekly to your group to keep everyone informed and in the loop on how to pray for one another throughout the week. This also makes it easier to check-in with people who have shared requests to see how the Lord has been working in their lives*).

