



Discovering Life #6: Step Forward & Serve

February 7-8, 2026

Mark 10:35-45

Opener:

What's one thing you dreamed of being or doing when you were younger?
Did that ambition change over time? If so, how?

Go Deeper: *(Exploring the Bible)*

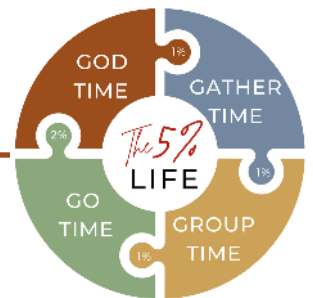
1. **Read Mark 10:35-37.** What does their request reveal about how they understood greatness? How does the world still define "greatness" this way today?
 2. **Read Mark 10:38-40.** The "cup" represents God's wrath against sin—something only Jesus could drink. Why is it significant that James and John confidently say "we can" when they have no idea what they're promising?
 3. **Read Mark 10:41-44.** Why do you think the other ten disciples got angry at James and John? What does Jesus' response tell us about the difference between worldly leadership and kingdom leadership?
 4. **Read Mark 10:45.** A ransom is a price paid to free slaves. What are some things we're enslaved to that Jesus' ransom sets us free from?
 5. **Read Philippians 2:1-8.** Paul describes how Jesus "made himself nothing" and "humbled himself." How does this passage connect to what Jesus teaches in Mark 10 about servant leadership?
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Live It: (Applying to Daily Life)

1. **Misdirected ambition** says "I'll serve so God will notice me, bless me, use me." and **Redeemed ambition** says "God has already noticed me, blessed me, and freed me—now I get to serve." Which statement better describes your current approach to serving? What would need to shift?
2. Jesus doesn't rebuke James and John's ambition—He redirects it. Where in your life do you have ambition or dreams that might need redirecting rather than rejecting? How might God want to use those desires for His kingdom?
3. When someone else gets recognition, opportunity, or blessing, how do you typically respond? What does your reaction reveal about where you're finding your security?
4. On a scale of 1-10, how much are you currently serving from freedom (gratitude for what Jesus has done) versus serving from slavery (trying to earn God's approval)? What are the warning signs in your own heart that you've shifted from freedom to slavery?
5. The sermon challenged us to "think global, serve local." What's one specific way you could support global mission (through giving, prayer, or partnership)? What's one way you could serve locally this week (at church, in your neighborhood, or workplace)?



GOD TIME:



Daily Bible Readings (February 8-14)

Sun:	John 13:1-17	Jesus Washes the Disciples' Feet
Mon:	Romans 12:1-8	Living Sacrifices with Gifts to Serve
Tues:	Galatians 5:13-14	Called to Serve One Another in Love
Wed:	1 Peter 4:10-11	Faithful Stewards of God's Grace
Thurs:	Matthew 25:31-46	Serving the Least of These
Fri:	Colossians 3:23-24	Working for the Lord
Sat:	1 Corinthians 12:4-11	Gifts for the Common Good