

COMMUNITY



3. Community in the Life of Jesus

We all live in community. The first circle of that community is our family, but as we discovered in our previous study, another circle may be a small group of Christians we do life with.



To begin our time together, let's share two or three people who have been a positive influence in our lives. It may be a parent, a teacher, a friend or relative.

Everyone has difficulties in their relationships at times. We have been hurt by what others have said to us, or about us. Perhaps we have felt angry or upset because others think they are more important than we are. Even the disciples who lived with Jesus struggled in their relationships with one another. Let's see what we can learn from this community who Jesus called to be his disciples.



Matthew 20:20-28

❶ What did this mother want from Jesus for her two sons? See verses 20-21.

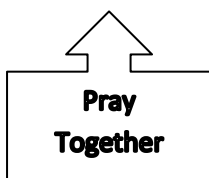
This mother wanted her sons to be important in the kingdom! Perhaps her sons, James and John wanted that too as they seemed very confident when Jesus asked if they could drink the cup he was going to drink.

❷ According to the standards of the world, who are the kind of people who are important today?

❸ How did the other disciples feel when they heard about this request? Verse 24. Why do you think they felt like this? Discuss.

❹ What about us? How do we feel and respond when someone else seems to be made more important than we are?

❺ How does Jesus' answer in verses 25-28 challenge you? Share.



Is anyone struggling in a relationship with another person right now? As a group, pray for that person.

Pray also for unity in your group, and that Jesus would help you to be like him.

Living in community isn't always easy, as no doubt we have all discovered! Even the disciples who Jesus chose to follow him had disagreements. Some wanted more important places of honour than the others. In speaking with his disciples, Jesus gives us the key to living together in community. He said that if we want to be great in his Kingdom then we must be like servants, just as he was. This means that we don't elevate ourselves and put ourselves first. In Matthew 20:28 Jesus said, "Just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve", we too must have this attitude. When we do, we can live together in unity in the way God wants us to. If you want to be great then be ready to serve others!