



FACILITATOR'S GUIDE—YOUTH

Year 1—The God of Life: A Story of God's Redeeming Shalom

Module 4—Coming Alive by Being Human: Jesus Stories on What it Means to Be Human and Fully Alive

Lesson 2—Mark 10:17-31

ENCOUNTER 1—Community Discussion

Read Mark 10:17-31 together out loud as a group. Encourage each person to journal through the passage using these questions. After allowing sufficient time for reflection, invite the group to share their thoughts.

*How is this God's story?
How is this others' story?*

*How is this my story?
How is this the world's story?*

ENCOUNTER 2—Community Discussion

(Read the reflection included with this lesson. The questions are designed for your group to enter into a meaningful dialog about the Word. The bulleted teaching points are taken from the reflection and correspond to the questions.)

GOD'S STORY—God's life in Jesus Christ is a gift of grace, despite our best efforts to earn it.

How does understanding discipleship as an invitation from God change the way you think about acting out your faith?

- Jesus suggests the way to salvation is not through our effort, but rather through complete devotion to God, evidenced by a willingness to do what Jesus asks and follow him.
- God is the one at work bringing about life for us, inviting us to follow Jesus and discover the fullness of life only he can provide for us.
- God in Jesus Christ is at work bringing about our salvation, making the apparently impossible not only possible, but real in our lives.
- The fullness of life that we experience in following Jesus is not first of all our accomplishment. It is the gift of God's grace remaking us into those able to live into the remarkably challenging and demanding way of life with Jesus as our guide.

OUR STORY—Our true identity comes by being a disciple of Jesus and living into his calling for our lives.

In what ways do you try to define yourself? How does this story challenge you?

- This person was a self-made man, and Jesus was asking him to let go of that image of himself and allow Jesus to tell him who he truly was, inviting him to experience his true identity in discipleship to Jesus.
- We grasp tightly to images of ourselves that are simply untrue, looking for the fullness of life in acquisition of stuff, or in our jobs, or in achievements.
- Jesus invites us to become who we truly are not by working harder, but by letting go of ourselves for his sake.
- When Jesus calls us to follow him, he calls us into the fullness of life that we so desire and yearn for.
- The trials of Jesus led him to the cross, and we can expect that when we give everything we have for Jesus, even though we experience the fullness of life God intends for us, it may be accompanied by trials.

OTHERS' STORY—Others discover the true life in Jesus through the community that lives in Jesus' way, the church.

How might you live as a community among others in a way that points them to true life in Jesus?

- We live into God's life-giving mission when we organize our lives together for the sake of inviting people into a way of life that places wholeness and fellowship with God at the center.
- God intends for us to be rich in relationships.
- The life that we leave behind by giving up everything to follow Jesus is given back to us as we enter to the lives of others and discover the richness of life with them.
- When trials come we are sustained in life by those with whom we are privileged to walk the way of Jesus.
- Shaping our lives with others in this way becomes a witness to others that true life is found in the company of Jesus.

THE WORLD'S STORY—As the world is filled with poverty, Jesus is calling us to follow him into life with the poor.

How can you begin to live more simply? How is that an embodiment of this story?

- Finding our place among the poor of the world might be the way in which we discover the trials that Jesus says are sure to come on account of following him.
- In simplifying our lives, we may create more time in order to not simply look for ways to just give our money, but actually enter into the lives of those in our world affected by poverty.
- In the gift of relationship with them, we may discover the richness of life Jesus talked about his followers living into even after letting go of everything they had.

PRAYER

(Lead your group in corporate prayer.)

Heavenly Father, you work to ultimately bring good out of every situation we face. Help us to trust you wholeheartedly even when obedience requires sacrifice. Teach us to find our joy in you and to remain faithful so that others may be encouraged to give themselves fully to you. Amen.

WEEKLY PRACTICE

(Read the weekly practice out loud, and challenge your group to practice *missio* beyond today.)

Simplify Your Life:

Look over everything you own. Get rid of everything that you don't need. If it is something useful, give it away to someone else who could use it. If there are things you can sell, have a yard sale in order to connect with people. Take whatever money you make and use it to bring about life for another person. Simplify your life and bless the life of another person.

BECOMING MY STORY

(Encourage the group to spend time this week in God's Word, allowing it to penetrate their heart and life.)

Passages for further reflection this week:

• *Exodus 20:12-16* • *Matthew 19:16-30* • *Luke 18:18-30* • *Acts 2:42-47* • *Colossians 3:1-17*

Spend time this week reading and journaling through the above Scriptures. Reflect on how the passage is God's story, my story, others' story, and the world's story. In the context of Mark 10:17-31, consider the following questions:

How are these Scripture passages related to the message in Mark 10:17-31?

How do these Scriptures tell us about the story of God being continued from Mark 10:17-31?

What is God saying to you through these passages?

Consider other passages that you might know related to Mark 10:17-31 and read them this week, journaling as you go.