DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Matthew 20:17–28

Read through the passage together before you begin.

1. Jesus predicts his death three times in Matthew (16:21; 17:22–23; 20:17–19). Read them side by side. What's added in this third prediction, and what does it tell us about Jesus?
2. Right after Jesus predicts his death again, James and John's mother comes with her request. What does that timing tell us about how the disciples took his words, and what do you think motivated her?
3. James and John answer "We are able" without hesitating. What did they think they were agreeing to, and what did it actually cost them? (See Acts 12:2.)
4. Why do you think the other disciples reacted the way they did? How do you think you would react?
5. Jesus says the rulers of the Gentiles "lord it over" others and "exercise authority over them" (v. 25). What does that kind of leadership look like today, and where do you see it showing up in your own life?
6. What might it look like for you to take the position of a servant or slave in the different places you interact with others?
7. How does the example of Jesus help us in this reorientation of authority? How does the redemption of Jesus empower us toward this reorientation?

CLOSE IN PRAYER

Thank Jesus for giving his life as a ransom for many, and pray for one another to serve as he served.