

Who Gets Your Strength?

Small Group Guide

Warm-up Questions:

1. If four people offered to carry you anywhere just for fun, where would you want them to take you?
2. What ordinary task are you weirdly good at?

Read the following passage(s): Mark 2:1-12; 1 Peter 4:10-11; Mark 10:42-45; John 21:9-17

None of us has unlimited strength, but every day our time, attention, gifts, and energy are going somewhere. The journey of the sermon challenges us to notice who receives our best and whether ambition, comfort, or a crowded schedule has left little room for someone else's need to become part of our obedience. Serving is not about saving anyone or proving our worth; it is received grace becoming available so someone else can encounter Jesus, and it requires the humility both to carry and to be carried. Because Jesus has already served, fed, forgiven, and restored us, what one honest yes is He asking from you, and who will get your strength?

Questions for Discussion (Choose several that are relevant for your group):

It is possible to enjoy what Jesus is doing and never notice who cannot get through the door.

1. Read Mark 2:1-5. Who around you may be outside the door while your attention is fixed on what you need from Jesus? What would noticing them require from you this week?
2. The sermon said that if receiving becomes the only way we know how to be in church, we eventually become part of the crowd at the door. Where has receiving become your default posture, and what corner might God be asking you to carry?
3. Needing help does not make you a burden. Where are you pretending to be stronger than you are, and what truth do you need to tell? How can this group carry you in one practical way this week?
4. Whose need have you labeled inconvenient, outside your responsibility, or someone else's job? What rationalization needs to be named, and what one action will you take within the next seven days?

What God has placed in your hands was never meant to stop with you.

5. **Read 1 Peter 4:10-11.** What strength, gift, access, or ability do you minimize because it feels ordinary? Name one person who could receive grace through it this week.
6. Who gets the most prepared and present version of you, and who gets what is left? What needs to change in your schedule or attention this week so your strength becomes available for love?

7. "***Fruit always raises the question of who gets to eat.***" Where is your ambition serving mostly your own name? What would it look like for its fruit to feed someone who cannot repay, promote, or impress you?
8. What kind of service do you resist because it feels unseen, uncredited, or beneath you? Choose one hidden act of service you can do this week (share with the group), then tell the group next time what it exposed in you.
9. Where are you using "I don't have time" to avoid a more honest reason, such as control, comfort, fear, resentment, or the need to be recognized? Who already has that time, and what could you release to make room for obedience?
10. "***You cannot save anyone, but you can carry a corner***". Whose outcome are you trying to control, and how would faithful service with the results entrusted to Jesus change your next step?

Before Jesus asks Peter to feed anybody, Jesus feeds Peter.

11. **Read John 21:9-17.** Where are you serving to prove your strength, establish your worth, or pay grace back? What would it mean to receive Jesus' love before offering Him your effort?
12. When your strength runs low, do you tend to disappear, perform, or become resentful? What limit do you need to name honestly, and how can this group support you so your service grows from grace instead of depletion?
13. "***In the world, strength moves people beneath you; in the kingdom, strength gets beneath people and carries***". Which pattern is shaping you most at work, at home, or at church? What concrete act of getting beneath someone is Jesus asking of you this week?
14. Where is your one corner right now: Mat Holders or a Sunday team, your home, your neighborhood, or letting someone carry you? Name the step, set a date, and ask one person in this group to follow up within seven days.

Pray Together.