

Our new mission statement is: *Building Bridges to Connect Everyone to the Dynamic Life in Christ*. But what does being connected and living that life look like and feel like? This spring we will be going through the Book of Mark to discover what it means to live the **Dynamic Life in Christ**. These discussion guides will follow along with the sermon series by using passages from the book of Mark.

These guides will be organized using the acronym HEAR as a way to teach people to read the Bible. HEAR stands for **H**ighlight the passage, **E**xplain the passage, **A**pply the passage, and **R**espond to the passage.

Each week, there will be a page to print off for each member of your group. The printed sheet will have the Bible passage you'll discuss and some questions in the margins to guide them in examining those verses.

Additionally, there will be a leader's guide that will give you helpful notes on the passage (i.e. background information and definitions) as well as discussion questions to lead your group. These don't need to be printed for each member of your group.

These guides are designed to be discussed BEFORE the sermon, so the group can discuss the passage before the pastor shares his insights. However, they can just as easily be used after the weekend message.

Our hope is these tools will (a) help your group members learn to study/read their Bibles outside of the group and (b) give you a helpful outline for facilitating the group discussion. If you have comments or questions about the discussion guides, we'd love to hear your constructive feedback. Send your feedback to us at [groups@foresthill.org](mailto:groups@foresthill.org).

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### *How to Use This Discussion Guide*

- Print off the "Life Group Member Guide" for each member of your group – or email it to them in advance.
- Use the summary statement for each week to quickly understand the text's theme. You can use that as a reference point to help guide your discussion or bring it back if your group begins to get off topic.
- Use the prayer prompt at the end of each guide to help you close in prayer.

Additionally, here are some tips and guidelines to help you lead these discussions:

1. **Choose the questions that best fit your group and your time constraints.** There are a lot of questions in this guide and your group may not be able to discuss them all. That's okay! You don't have to ask all of them. Before your group begins, choose the questions that are most likely to help your group understand what God is saying in the text and how to apply it to their lives.
2. **Prepare for your group time by reading the passages and the notes in a study Bible.** A good study Bible can give you some insights into the passages and how they connect to the whole book or the whole story of the Bible.
3. **Begin every group meeting with prayer.** We can only understand and apply God's Word with the help of the Holy Spirit. So, invite the Spirit to open your hearts and minds to what He says to His people.
4. **Keep the conversation focused on Scripture as much as possible.** Some people may want to bring in their opinions or continually refer to what the teaching pastor said during his message. This is helpful in small doses, but the goal of this discussion guide is to help you determine what God is saying in His Word. Encourage the group to continue to return to the Scripture. One way to do that is by saying, "That's a great insight! Where do you see that in the Scripture we're studying?"
5. **Encourage participation, but don't let anyone dominate.** Encourage everyone to share insights, ask questions, and read aloud. But don't allow any one person – even yourself, the leader – to monopolize the time. Some people are just unaware of themselves and how much they speak, so gently encourage them to listen and make space for others to talk.
6. **Help your group members to be specific in the application of Scripture.** It is easy to generalize when we talk about the Bible and how to apply it. So ask your group members specific questions – for example, "What part of the world do you sense God wants you to pray for? How will you do that? How will you make that a habit?"

We pray that you will hear God speak through Scripture and that His Spirit will move you to obey Him. The Word of God – the Bible – lets us know the God who loves us and saves us. May this discussion guide help you and your Life Group to become more immersed in His Word.

**Date of Sermon:** May 24, 2020

**Topic of Sermon:** The Rich Young Ruler

**Main Passage:** Mark 10:17-27

**BEFORE your group meeting:**

- Look up the main passage in a study Bible and read the study notes
- Print off or send the “Group Member Guide” (page 4) for your group members
- Review the “Group Member Guide” for yourself
- Have enough pens for each group member.

**Topic of Life Group Meeting:** The Rich Young Ruler: The rival god to Dynamic Life

Icebreakers (optional)

- What actions constitute worship? How does one worship materialism or wealth?

Leader’s Note: Introduce the next part of the group meeting. You can read this introduction or put it in your own words:

*“Today, we’re going to spend a few minutes studying the focal passage on our own before we discuss it as a group. I’ve printed out a copy of the Bible passage for you. There are some questions in the margins to help you. Spend most of your time on the Highlight and Explain questions. Feel free to mark up, underline or highlight the passage. I’m going to give us about 5 minutes to do this. Let me begin by praying that God will open our minds and hearts to His Word.”*

When you come back together, use the questions below to guide the discussion.

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**HIGHLIGHT** the Passage

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- What key ideas, words or phrases stood out to you from the passage today? What is the significance of those?
- Did this passage raise any questions for you?
- How would you summarize this passage in your own words? Would anyone else add or emphasize something to that summary?

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**EXPLAIN** the Passage

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- How does this man come before Jesus? How does he relate to him? What about his words or his actions reveals his perspective?
- Jesus identifies some of the commandments, but what does he omit? Why do you think that is?
- How does the man leave his encounter with Jesus? Where is his heart?
- What does this passage teach us about the nature of man? The nature of God?

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**APPLY** the Passage

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- What ways are we sometimes tempted to view Jesus as just a good teacher? Just a source of practical wisdom or sage advice?
- What do Jesus’ words in vs 21 make your heart feel?
- What in your life is standing between you and Jesus? What are you holding on to like this rich man?
- What comfort does vs 27 give for your own spiritual journey?
- By God’s power, what is God calling you to change in how you think, speak, or act?

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**RESPOND** to the Passage

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- Take a moment to list out, privately, the things which are standing in the way of your following Jesus. Then go to God in prayer for him to reveal himself as greater than those created things. Go to God corporately as a group and lift up either one of those obstacles or a desire for spiritual growth and allow for other group members to intercede for you on your behalf.

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## COMMENTARY NOTES ON THE MAIN PASSAGE

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**10:17** This man comes to Jesus and performs several signs of respect. He kneels before Jesus. He calls him “Good” (here in the Greek “Pure or most excellent.” He calls him teacher. But also notable as the rest of the story expounds, is the lack of “Lord.” He says, “what must I do to ‘inherit’ eternal life?” The Greek speaks to ‘inherit’ meaning more “participate in or share in” eternal life. The man’s question was a pure one and he believed Jesus had the answer.

**10:18-19** Jesus corrects the man’s approach by saying “No one is good except God alone.” Evidently, the man was viewing Jesus not as God, but just a man. Jesus perceives this and corrects him. He follows with a comment that extrapolates this: “you know the commandments.” Interestingly, Jesus only lists 6 of the 10 great commandments given in the law in Exodus at Sinai. He includes only those commandments that deal with our human-to-human relationships. Glaringly omitted are the four commandments that relate to God: Have no other God’s before me, Make no idols, Do not bear the Lord’s name in vain, and remember and keep the Sabbath.

**10:20** The man evidently was fairly confident of his religious performance on these fronts.

**10:21** Powerfully, Jesus “actively looking and considering the man”, “*Agapao*” or “a deep cherishing affection” for the man. After loving him, He then speaks truth to him. Jesus tells him he has disregarded God for his affection for his things. He says, ‘if you want to be found not lacking – let go of your things for the poor – and take hold of me;’ and you will have “treasure in heaven.” Here Jesus strikes the core of the issue, the man has love his treasure on earth more than he has loved his God.

**10:22** The man was “disheartened” or in the Greek ‘shocked and appalled, having a gloomy appearance.’ Sadly, this man knew what his choice was in the face of Jesus’ prescription. He could not do what he had been asked to do.

**10:23** Jesus reveals the difficulty for those who grasp onto material wealth in having their hands free for receiving the kingdom of God. The “Kingdom of God” does not operate on capitalist fundamentals, it is a different economy altogether.

**10:24-25** The disciples were “utterly astounded” at what Jesus had revealed. Sensing their disbelief, Jesus elaborates, with an masterful word picture: the impossibility of a camel going through an eye of a needle. This latter is easier than a rich man letting go of his wealth.

**10:26-27** The disciples are floored...”Then who can be saved?” Here Jesus reveals his lordship over the human heart. What is impossible with man, is completely possible with God. But it will take God’s intervention, it will take a miracle of the human condition.

Life Group Member Guide

Focal Passage: Mark 10:17-27 (CSB)

Passage in Context: Mark 10:17-27 (CSB)



**Bible-Reading Tip:** Begin by asking God to open your eyes and hearts to His Word. In 1 Corinthians 2:6-16, Paul writes that the Spirit – who lives inside everyone who believes in Jesus – knows the depths of God and reveals Him to those who follow Jesus. So, always begin your time of reading the Bible with a prayer for Him to open your eyes and ears to what He will reveal. This doesn't mean that you will always have an emotional encounter or a special revelation, but you are acknowledging that He is that One through whom all wisdom is revealed.

17 As he was setting out on a journey, a man ran up, knelt down before him, and asked him, “Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?”

18 “Why do you call me good?” Jesus asked him. “No one is good except God alone. 19 You know the commandments: Do not murder; do not commit adultery; do not steal; do not bear false witness; do not defraud; honor your father and mother.”

20 He said to him, “Teacher, I have kept all these from my youth.”

21 Looking at him, Jesus loved him and said to him, “You lack one thing: Go, sell all you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.” 22 But he was dismayed by this demand, and he went away grieving, because he had many possessions.

23 Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, “How hard it is for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!”

24 The disciples were astonished at his words. Again Jesus said to them, “Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! 25 It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God.”

26 They were even more astonished, saying to one another, “Then who can be saved?”

27 Looking at them, Jesus said, “With man it is impossible, but not with God, because all things are possible with God.”

**HEAR Bible Reading Method**

**HIGHLIGHT** the passage

- Underline any repeated words or key ideas you see.
- Note any questions you have about what you read.
- In 2-3 sentences, summarize what was said or what happened.

**EXPLAIN** the passage

- What was revealed about God? His character, desires, and/or actions?
- What was revealed about people? What we are/do or what we should be/do?

**APPLY** the passage

- From this reading, what truth do you need to embrace?
- By God's power, how will you THINK, SPEAK, or ACT differently based on what you read?

**RESPOND** to the passage

- Talk to God about what you've seen and learned in this passage.
- Ask Him to help you apply the truth to your life.