



THE WAY OF THE CROSS

Life Group
Discussion
Guide

Week 2

3/1/2026

Sermon Summary: In this week's message from the Gospel of Mark, Pastor Tara Beth reflects on Jesus' second prediction of His death and the disciples' surprising response. While Jesus speaks of surrender and suffering, the disciples argue about who among them is the greatest. Rather than rebuking them harshly, Jesus sits down, places a child in their midst, and redefines greatness as humble, self-giving service. In a culture obsessed with status and proximity to power, Jesus reveals that He is found among the vulnerable and the overlooked. Lent invites us to examine where we strive for recognition and to rediscover Christ in hidden acts of love and quiet faithfulness. True greatness in the kingdom of God is not about climbing higher, but about stooping lower in love.

Conversation Starter: Where do you feel competitive in life? Work, parenting, sports, board games, social media...?

Prayer: Lord Jesus, Soften our hearts today. Expose our ambition without shaming us. Teach us to find You in the small, the unseen, and the vulnerable places. As we open Your Word, reshape our imaginations so that we desire Your kingdom more than our own success. In Your name we pray,
Amen.

Read Scripture together: Mark 9:30-37

3-Question Study Method

Use this method to understand the passage.

1. What is the passage about?
2. What do I learn about God?
3. What is the lesson I learn that I can apply to my life?

Discussion Questions:

- Why do you think the disciples were afraid to ask Jesus what He meant?
 - What does fear do in our spiritual lives?
 - Have you ever avoided asking God hard questions? Why?
- Why do you think the disciples argued about greatness right after Jesus predicted His death?
 - What does that reveal about human nature?
 - Do we ever compensate for discomfort by pursuing status or control?
- Jesus says, “Anyone who wants to be first must be the last and the servant of all.”
 - What does that actually look like in real life?
 - At work?
 - At home?
 - In church?
 - In leadership?
- Why is it significant that Jesus places a child in the center? (9:36)
 - What does the child represent?
 - Who are the “socially invisible” in our world today?
- Jesus says that welcoming the least is welcoming Him. Where might Jesus be present today that we’re least likely to look?
- Where are you currently striving for recognition, performance, or proximity to power?
 - What would it look like to lay that down this week?
 - What might God be inviting you to release?

Memory Verse: Mark 9:35 (NIV)

“Anyone who wants to be first must be the very last, and the servant of all.”

Closing Prayer: Lord Jesus, You turned greatness upside down. Forgive us for striving for recognition, power, or status. Teach us to see You in the small, the vulnerable, and the unnoticed places. Shape our hearts to reflect Yours; humble, obedient, and full of love. Amen.