

WEEKLY GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Week of Sunday March 8, 2026

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INTRODUCTION

In **Mark 10:17–31**, Jesus is not giving us a checklist for earning eternal life, and He is not teaching that salvation belongs to the most moral, disciplined, or successful people in the room. He is exposing what we trust in place of Him and inviting us into childlike dependence, full surrender, and real life with Him. Most of us feel the tension between wanting Jesus and still wanting to stay in control of the one thing we treasure most. This discussion is meant to help us name what may be holding us back, see Jesus more clearly, and respond to Him with deeper trust.

Main Passage:

Mark 10:17–31

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

The One Thing!

READ ALOUD

Mark 10:17–31

DISCUSS

Opening Question: What is one thing people commonly look to for security, identity, or peace?

- What stands out to you most in this conversation between Jesus and the rich young ruler?
- Why do you think Jesus brings up the commandments before He tells the man to follow Him?
- What do you learn about Jesus from the fact that He looked at the man and loved him before confronting him?
- Why is it important that this passage is not mainly about money, but about trust and surrender?
- What is the difference between struggling with sin and resisting Jesus, and why does that matter?
- How does Jesus' statement in verse 27 reshape the way we think about salvation, change, and hope?

DISCUSS & APPLY

- What is one area of your life where Jesus may be putting His finger right now?
- What are you most afraid of losing if you fully obey Him there?
- Where are you tempted to trust performance, morality, or comparison instead of grace?
- How does Jesus being your true treasure challenge the way you see security, identity, or success?

RESPOND

- **Surrender the one thing:** What is one thing you need to release to Jesus? What would one act of surrender look like this week?
- **Trust the Savior:** Where have you been trying to fix yourself? What would it look like to receive from Jesus instead of perform for Him?
- **Follow with open hands:** What is one step of obedience you already know Jesus is asking of you?

PRAY

Ask the Lord, “What is the one thing I’ve been holding onto instead of trusting You fully?” Give people space to confess anything they have been resisting, fearing, or trying to control. Then lead the group to thank Jesus that salvation is not earned by performance but received by grace, and ask Him for courage to surrender, trust Him more deeply, and take one clear step of obedience this week.

QUESTIONS FOR FAMILIES

Mark 10:17–31

- Why do you think the man asked Jesus what he needed to do to inherit eternal life?
- What did Jesus help the man see about what he loved or trusted most?
- Why can't we save ourselves by being good enough?
- What does it look like to trust Jesus with open hands like a child?

For younger children: Help your child see that Jesus wants us to trust Him more than our stuff, our plans, or what we want most right now.

For older kids or students: What is one thing in your life that could be competing with Jesus for first place, and what would surrender look like this week?

BIBLE READING PLAN (OPTIONAL)

Scripture to read as you pray this week:

- Day 1: Mark 11:1–11
- Day 2: Mark 11:12–14
- Day 3: Mark 11:15–19
- Day 4: Mark 11:20–26
- Day 5: Mark 11:27–33

What's Going On?

This passage comes right after Jesus says the kingdom must be received like a child. That sets up the contrast: the rich young ruler comes asking what he must do, while Jesus has already said the kingdom is received, not achieved.

Jesus uses the man's wealth to expose a deeper issue of trust, then teaches His disciples that salvation is impossible through human effort but fully possible with God.

A Bit of Background

In that culture, wealth was often seen as a sign of God's blessing, so Jesus' warning would have shocked the disciples. The man appears sincere, moral, and respected, yet Jesus reveals that even an outwardly good life can hide an idol underneath.

Jesus is not commanding all believers to give away all possessions, but He is showing that anything we trust more than Him will keep us from wholehearted surrender.