

Small Group Questions
March 3, 2024
Come With Me

As needed, refer to the [Order of Worship and Resources](#) for sermon video, message outline, readings and resources, and Small Group Questions print out.

REFLECT TOGETHER ON COMMUNITY SERVE DAY

- Gather together with prayer and time of conversation, sharing, or even an ice-breaker.
- Share with one another as a whole group or in smaller groups, using these prompts only as suggestion:
 - Where did you serve on Sunday? What will you remember?
 - How has CSD connected you more deeply to the message series and the gospel of Mark?
 - How has God shaped you through this CSD experience?

CONNECT WITH GOD (Select the below practice or choose a practice from a previous week.)

- **Attending to God through Art**

Alone: Using the artwork to be highlighted on Sunday, March 10th ([found here](#)) spend time reflecting and journaling on what you see in the piece.

Pray that God quiets the many distractions within you and beyond you in order to focus on the gift of this artwork before you.

As you focus in on the painting, you might journal your reflections to the following questions:

- Where am I emotionally and spiritually right now?
- Where does God meet me in this painting?
- What new perspectives is God shaping within me as I reflect on this painting?

- **Practice of Praying With**

- *Alone:* Read the quote below by Deitrich Bonhoeffer. Read it at least three times. Focus your mind and body in stillness, paying attention to your breath, and welcoming God's own presence in your life.
- After several quiet readings, pray for someone who is a stranger to you, or an enemy, or someone with whom you don't agree. Let the Holy Spirit guide you and move you into a posture of welcome and compassion.

“A Christian fellowship lives and exists by the intercession of its members for one another, or it collapses. I can no longer condemn or hate a brother for whom I pray, no matter how much trouble he causes me. His face, that hitherto may have been strange and intolerable to me, is transformed in intercession into the countenance of a brother for whom Christ died, the face of a forgiven sinner.”

—*Life Together: The Classic Exploration of Christian Community*

CONNECT WITH SCRIPTURE

(As a reminder: this is the Bible passage for the week of March 10.)

- **Read** Mark 6:30-44 and **Use the “Come with Me” card**, along with your Mark Bible Journal, to engage with the Scripture passage for the coming week.
 - **Observe:** Dig into the scripture through doodling, highlighting and note-taking. Pay attention to words or phrases that seem important or raise questions for you.
 - **Meditate:** Slow down. Read Mark 6:30-44 again and engage your imagination and senses to connect to the passage. Reflect on your experience in your journal.
 - **Pray:** What prayer of praise, gratitude, or confession arises from your heart and mind as you meditate on this passage?
- **Reflect together (in pairs):** Spend time sharing your reactions and reflections of Mark 6:30-44 using this prompt as a guide.
 - Where does your attention go as you read? What words, phrases, or images stand out to you?

DIG DEEPER (Select 1-2 questions or customize the questions for your group)

- Where does your attention go as you read? What words, phrases, or images stand out to you?
- How does 6:34 describe Jesus?
- How does this story connect to the stories and themes preceding it?
- In what ways is the kingdom of Jesus different from the kingdom of Herod in Mark 6:14-29?
- Why do you think Jesus gave them more food than was needed? (verses 42-43)
- What part of Mark 6:30-44 are you still wrestling with?

NEXT STEPS

- Finish reading Mark 6. Observe. Meditate. Pray.

PRAYER

Pray for the people, ministries, and impact of Community Serve Day. Pray that our own hearts have been made tender to God's love. Share the lessons you have learned and how you desire God to continue to teach you and shape you through CSD.