



Your *group* matters.

DISCUSSION GUIDE

- Icebreaker -

Tell about a time when you were surprised by the impact you had on another person's perspective, life, decision, opinion, etc. Why was it surprising to you?

1. Read **Mark 10:35-39**. James and John saw their value and significance tied to the power and prestige of the positions they would hold in Christ's Kingdom. What are some things our culture tells us makes us significant?
2. Read **Ephesians 2:8-9**. According to this passage, what is the source of the Christ follower's value and what kind of impact does that reality have on your ability to be the kind of servant Jesus talks about in **Mark 10:42-45**?
3. Many voices in our world try to tell us who we are and what our value is. God, on the other hand, claims the exclusive right to tell you who you are and demonstrates your value to Him. What is the difference between the world's voices and values and God's, and which voices are you allowing to define you?
4. Read **1 Peter 4:10**. Pastor Nate pointed out that the Greek word for "grace" can also be translated "gift", so it follows from this passage that the grace we received from God is also something we are to pass along to others. What grace (or gift) have you received from God and how can you share it with others around you?
5. In the message, Pastor Nate shared a few stories of the significant impact people at Riverside have had when using their gifts to serve others. If you have received God's gift of grace and live in the security of who He has declared you to be, then what is keeping you from stepping into service at Riverside?

PERSONAL GUIDE

This Personal Guide has been adapted from Professor Grant Horner's Bible Reading System.

Day One: John 19; Psalm 31

Day Two: Deuteronomy 28; Proverbs 26

Day Three: 1 Chronicles 9; Ezra 1

Day Four: Revelation 8; Daniel 10

Day Five: Song of Songs 3; Acts 13



WELCOME *to* RIVERSIDE CHURCH

Big Lake - Buffalo - Sauk Rapids

ONE CHURCH
MULTIPLE CAMPUSES
ONE FAMILY

Aug 23, 2026

Message Notes



"Alive to Serving"

Pastor Nate Sickler | Aug 23, 2026

We all want our life to _____.

Then James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came over and spoke to him. "Teacher," they said, "we want you to do us a favor." "What is your request?" he asked. They replied, "When you sit on your glorious throne, we want to sit in places of honor next to you, one on your right and the other on your left." But Jesus said to them, "You don't know what you are asking! Are you able to drink from the bitter cup of suffering I am about to drink? Are you able to be baptized with the baptism of suffering I must be baptized with?" "Oh yes," they replied, "we are able!" Then Jesus told them, "You will indeed drink from my bitter cup and be baptized with my baptism of suffering. But I have no right to say who will sit on my right or my left. God has prepared those places for the ones he has chosen." When the ten other disciples heard what James and John had asked, they were indignant. So Jesus called them together and said, "You know that the rulers in this world lord it over their people, and officials flaunt their authority over those under them. But among you it will be different. Whoever wants to be a leader among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first among you must be the slave of everyone else. For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many." **Mark 10:35-45**

BIG IDEA

Because of grace, I'm alive to _____.

1. We naturally define significance by position. (**Mark 10:35-37**)
2. Jesus changes both where significance comes from and how we gain it. (**Mark 10:38-40, 42-45**)
 - Jesus _____ what He _____. (**Mark 10:45**)

3. Grace says you _____ matter. (**Ephesians 2:8-9**)

- Your story _____!

The way to genuine impact, influence and _____ is through genuine _____. (**Ephesians 2:10; 1 Peter 4:10**)

_____ = Grace

- The Greek word behind "gift" is _____.
- It comes from *charis* - _____.
- Your gift is grace given to you for the sake of _____.
- Because it's a gift, there's no room for _____.

If you don't feel like you have significance...

- Say 'YES!'
- What _____ are you _____ to?
- Let's get to _____!

Tell us about the next step you took today in your spiritual journey!

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"Alive to Serving"

Pastor Nate Sickler | Aug 23, 2026

We all want our life to matter.

Then James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came over and spoke to him. "Teacher," they said, "we want you to do us a favor." "What is your request?" he asked. They replied, "When you sit on your glorious throne, we want to sit in places of honor next to you, one on your right and the other on your left." But Jesus said to them, "You don't know what you are asking! Are you able to drink from the bitter cup of suffering I am about to drink? Are you able to be baptized with the baptism of suffering I must be baptized with?" "Oh yes," they replied, "we are able!" Then Jesus told them, "You will indeed drink from my bitter cup and be baptized with my baptism of suffering. But I have no right to say who will sit on my right or my left. God has prepared those places for the ones he has chosen." When the ten other disciples heard what James and John had asked, they were indignant. So Jesus called them together and said, "You know that the rulers in this world lord it over their people, and officials flaunt their authority over those under them. But among you it will be different. Whoever wants to be a leader among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first among you must be the slave of everyone else. For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many." **Mark 10:35-45**

BIG IDEA

Because of grace, I'm alive to serving.

1. We naturally define significance by position. (**Mark 10:35-37**)
2. Jesus changes both where significance comes from and how we gain it. (**Mark 10:38-40, 42-45**)
 - Jesus lived what He taught. (**Mark 10:45**)

3. Grace says you already matter. (**Ephesians 2:8-9**)

- Your story matters!

The way to genuine impact, influence and significance is through genuine serving. (**Ephesians 2:10; 1 Peter 4:10**)

Gift = Grace

- The Greek word behind "gift" is charisma.
- It comes from *charis* - grace.
- Your gift is grace given to you for the sake of others.
- Because it's a gift, there's no room for envy.

If you don't feel like you have significance...

- Say 'YES!'
- What story are you listening to?
- Let's get to work!

Tell us about the next step you took today in your spiritual journey!

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