



When it comes to understanding why Jesus came, we don't have to put words in his mouth. He made a number of very clear statements about the subject. So this series will explore the reasons behind the greatest mission ever.

These questions are designed to extend the impact of the weekend message. Use them to go deeper in your personal study time, with your family and/or with a group.

1 "Who's the boss?" or "Who's the greatest?" is a common and often heated conversation. But it's a conversation that should go when the kingdom comes. **Read Mark 9:33-35.** What does the disciples' argument tell you about their understanding of who Jesus was and why He had come? Follow up discussion: In what ways are Jesus' words counter-cultural both today and in Jesus' day? What does this say about the condition of the human heart and our natural assumptions about service?

2 You would think that would end the conversation but notice what takes place in the next chapter. **Read Mark 10:35-45.** Rick noted that "Jesus does not rebuke His disciples for wanting to be great." Why is that significant? How does Jesus reframe the definition of greatness? What surprises you the most about how Jesus defines greatness?

3 WE MUST connect why He came to how He came. Jesus said, "Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant." When disciples of Jesus get this wrong things go very wrong. **Read Philippians 2:3-7.** What stands out to you the most from this passage? Why is it important to connect why Jesus came to how He came?

4 IN HIS KINGDOM... "Servant" is the only identity. We are not disciples because we serve; we serve because we are disciples. We serve because we are followers of a servant King. **Read 2 Corinthians 4:5.** In what ways is our identity as servants part of our message to the world? Share a story of how you've seen someone come to Christ because of how someone else served.

5 Rick reminded us that Jesus "doesn't just save us from something; He saves us for something." What's significant about that distinction? **Read 1 Peter 4:10.** How would not using your gifts to serve others be an example of poorly stewarding the grace of God?

6 Rick went on to say "We must exchange 'What can the church do for me?' with 'What can the church do through me?'" Why is this such a difficult shift to make? Share an example of how you've witnessed this change in someone else or how you've experienced it yourself.

7 IN HIS KINGDOM... "Serving" is the only strategy. Rick pointed out that "Jesus brought a kingdom that would transform the world not from above but from beneath by a reborn community of faithful servants." What was wrong with the strategy Jesus' disciples had in mind? Follow up discussion: "This is not to say that Christians should avoid positions of leadership. This is to say Christians should avoid replacing servant strategy with boss strategy." Share some examples of people you've seen do servant leadership well.

8 WE MUST send servants wherever we want God to send the kingdom. Jesus will never stop being a servant (see **Luke 12:35-37**). Neither should you. That is one reason that **Serve Others** is one of our Next Steps. What can you do to more consistently serve others in the church and in the community? How can we as a group intentionally encourage one another with this effort?

