

# LIGHTHOUSE GROUP CURRICULUM

Mark 10:17-31

## LEADER'S STUDY

### Heavenly Rewards

#### Mark 10:17-31

#### What is happening?

A man came running to Jesus with a burning question: "What must I do to inherit eternal life?" We don't know if he really wanted to know or if he was merely looking for affirmation, but Jesus, who knows our hearts better than we do ourselves, responded in a way no one could have expected. We might paraphrase His answer as, "Can you say 'Yes' to Me, no matter what I ask?"

After the man left in disappointment, Jesus told His disciples that anything we give up for His sake will be repaid many times over with treasure in heaven. Though the Bible mentions heavenly rewards and treasures in quite a number of places, nowhere do we see a clear description of what those rewards look like. But one thing is clear: there *are* eternal rewards, and Jesus bestows them abundantly—full-and-running-over abundantly—upon anyone and everyone who submits to Him in faith.

#### Where is the gospel?

When Jesus told the man that the requirement for heaven was to keep the commandments, He started out listing only those that have to do with our dealings with other people. When the man said he'd always obeyed the commandments, Jesus's reply was as much as to say, "Really? How about the first one, about having no other gods? How about #2, not bowing down to idols? If you love God and reverence Him above everything else, you'll gladly do whatever He says."

That's where the gospel comes in. Because God paid the full debt for all our sin by sending His Son to die on the cross on our behalf, we can quit trying to be good enough to earn our way into heaven (which is impossible), and accept the gift of redemption He literally died to give us. Having received *everything* from Him, why would we want to withhold anything He might ask of us, as if He's unable to give abundantly more of the same?

As you prepare for this week, ask yourself questions like these: Can I do enough good things to cancel out every sin I've ever committed in my lifetime? Why did Jesus tell the man he had to sell everything he owned? What did Jesus want him to understand? What does God want *me* to understand from this story? How does the thing most precious to me in this world compare to what Jesus has already given me? Knowing possessions on earth are of no use whatsoever in eternity, why do I value them so highly? How is God calling me to think and to live differently? How does this change my perspective today? How is God calling me to respond based on this scripture?

Spend some time reading and meditating on these truths as you prepare for your meeting. Be willing to share this with your group and invite them to join you in sharing how God is asking them to respond to His word. Be willing to share areas that He is calling you to "follow Him" and make clear "I" statements about how you are going to align with Him.

**Some helpful scriptures:** Exodus 20:1-17; Deuteronomy 6:5; Psalm 16:11; Matthew 5:3-12; 6:1-6, 16-21; 22:35-40; Luke 18:28-30; Galatians 6:7-9; 2 Timothy 4:6-8; Hebrews 11:13-16, 24-26. What other places in scripture speak this same truth?

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## **INTENTIONAL BIBLE READING**

READ Mark 10:17-31  
and meditate on it.

Read in the ESV or similar word-for-word  
translation.

Read it again in the NLT to get a thought-  
for-thought perspective. (The New Living  
Translation is particularly helpful with this  
passage)

Try to summarize the passage in your  
own words.

**Every verse of scripture points to the  
gospel. Look for how this passage  
points to Jesus and what He has done.**

## **POTENTIAL STUDY QUESTIONS**

These are just questions you might ask to help your  
group discussion. Don't feel like you need to answer  
all of these as a group

**What is significant, surprising or  
confusing from these verses?**

**What seems to be the main point of  
this letter?**

**How does this portion of scripture  
point to Jesus and the gospel?**

**What parts of this passage are  
challenging to your current way of  
thinking?**

**What did you discover or learn about  
God and His character from this  
passage?**

**What parts of this passage can you  
relate to?**

**Look at one or two key words and  
define them really clearly, then look at  
them in context with that definition.  
Does this change your understanding?**

**Why did God bring me to this scripture  
today?**

## **APPLICATION QUESTIONS**

**How is God calling you to obey, based  
on this passage?**

**or**

**What is your "I will" statement?**  
(Encourage everyone to steer clear of  
"we" or "us" or "Christians" statements)

**With whom are you going to share  
what you have learned?**

(This is a critical part of growth that is  
often overlooked. If we can share it with  
someone else it means we really  
understand it, it cements it in our own  
minds, it makes us accountable to the  
truth and it blesses the one who hears it.  
Rom 10:17)

**Based on this passage, what can we  
pray about and how should we pray?**