

# Discussion Guide

*Discussion Guides accompany the [weekly message](#).*

## **Icebreaker:**

Everyone has a picture in their mind of what success looks like. Share one of the first things you remember wanting to “be” or achieve when you grew up—and how that’s changed over time.

## **Connection to Sermon:**

We’re shaped by the culture’s image of success, but Jesus redefines success in a radically different way: through service, surrender, and significance rooted in God’s Kingdom.

## **Discussion Questions:**

1. What stood out to you most from this message and why?
2. Solomon had everything the world called “success,” yet he still said it was “meaningless.” Can you relate to that in any way?
3. What does today’s culture say success looks like? What are the subtle ways we chase it even without realizing?
4. Jesus said, “Among you it will be different.” How have you seen that to be true—or not true—in your life or in the church?
5. Have you ever achieved something and still felt empty or unsatisfied? What do you think was missing?
6. In Matthew 20, Jesus flips the model of success: servant > ruler. How does that challenge your current view of influence, achievement, or leadership?
7. Think about someone who has truly served you. How did their service impact your life? What did it reveal about real success?
8. The sermon defined a “god” as whatever consumes our time, money, and energy. What’s one “little g” God you feel tempted to serve in your own life?
9. What’s a small step you can take this week to practice servant-hearted success in your family, work, or community?
10. Imagine your life five years from now. If “serving like Jesus” became your definition of success, what would be different?

## **Challenge:**

Do something sacrificially kind for someone this week and don’t tell them it was you: anonymous encouragement, meeting a need, or easing someone’s burden. Let it be between you and God alone. Serving unseen helps purify our motives.

## **Closing Prayer:**

Lord, I confess that I’ve often chased success in ways that leave me empty. Thank You for showing us the true path to purpose—through service. Help me embrace the upside-down Kingdom, where serving others is the highest calling. Teach me to love like You, give like You, and lead like You. I want to be great in Your eyes—not by building my name, but by lifting others. Amen.

