

# HOME GROUP QUESTIONS: 03/03/19

1. When you are having a conversation with a stranger and a potentially difficult topic arises, how do you usually respond? 1) take a risk and move into the conversation or 2) try to change the subject to a lighter topic or find a way to leave the conversation?
2. As a result of the sermon series, have you begun to identify some personal barriers you may have when it comes to being intentional with strangers? What have you learned about yourself?
3. What are a few points from this week's message that connected with you the most?
4. Read Matthew 19:16-30 several times and make some general observations about the passage.
5. Place yourself in the shoes of the rich young ruler. What do you believe he is seeking? What stands out to you about the way Jesus engages in the conversation? What do you believe caused the rich man to leave this exchange with sadness?
6. In response to the rich young ruler, Jesus says, "Truly, I say to you, only with difficulty will a rich person enter the kingdom of heaven. Again, I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God." (Matthew 19:23,24)

It is easy for us to dismiss Jesus' words as mere hyperbole (he can't mean this literally, right?!) Why do you believe Jesus makes such a provocative statement?

What makes it so hard for the rich to enter the kingdom of God? What are the difficulties of wealth? How do you wrestle with this personally? What makes this awkward to talk about?

7. Do you believe it is possible to be both materially wealthy and focused on the kingdom of God? How do we live within both worlds? Where do the tensions lie in being a 1st world people who possess great wealth, and Jesus' words "only with difficulty will a rich person enter the kingdom of heaven?"

8. What will continue to linger with you as a result of the sermon and this study?