



## The Upside-Down Kingdom

**HIGH SCHOOL AND ADULT GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS****GROUP PREP**

In preparation for group, [watch Emmanuel's weekend service message](#), then answer the following discussion questions.

**SOCIAL TIME (15-20 minutes)**

Have an ice-breaker ready, eat a snack together, and/or go around the circle asking your group members to share any news since your last meeting.

Ice-Breaker suggestion: Play 'Cups & Downs'. Place 20 cups in the middle of the room, put half of them upside down and the other half the right way up. Divide the group into 2 teams and give each team a name (i.e., ups or downs) - the 'up' team needs to turn as many cups up the right way as possible, and the 'down' team needs to flip them upside down without picking them up. When the allocated time limit is over (2 min), count all the cups and whichever team has the most turned up their way wins.

**CHECK-IN TIME (15-20 minutes)**

Talk about how your action steps from last week went.

**GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (45-60 minutes)**

Who wants to be great? Do you know that true humility is ultimate power? This weekend, we learned about how Jesus introduced a new concept to the world regarding authority, institution, and power. He replaced what was in place and created a different way to influence from top to bottom to inside out.

1. Read [Matthew 5:38-48](#). Are there places in life where you are seeking retaliation? Are you overly frustrated when people require more of you than you think they should?

Have you allowed your natural inclination to love people who are like you to overcome you, and to lead you to hate those who stand in the way of your joy and life?

Are there relationships in your life where love and prayer seem to be the last thing you want to do for someone? How can you overcome those feelings?

2. In [Mark 10:35-45](#), Jesus and His disciples have one of the most memorable dialogues in the New Testament. In these verses, Jesus emphasizes the importance of humility and service. He insists that service is the only greatness recognized by God, and only those who give themselves for others will be the 'big winners' with God. Jesus insists that we must: climb down the ladder to greatness. Instead, we must sacrificially serve others. Jesus reveals that He is



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the King of an upside-down kingdom. His standards go against the grain of what our world says.

Do you find it easy or difficult to serve the people in your life? Why?

How does Jesus' model of servanthood inspire you? What impresses you most about His willingness to serve others?

3. Read [John 13:1-9](#). What stands out to you about the account of Jesus washing the disciples' feet? Why did Peter not want Jesus to wash his feet?

In what way, through washing the disciples' feet, has Jesus set us an example of what it means to follow him?

4. [Philippians 2:3-11](#) reminds us to do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above ourselves, not looking to our own interests but to those of others. What does it mean 'the greatest should be last'?

What is one characteristic of Jesus that you will take on this week? Where and who are you going to serve? What action step can you take to go the extra mile in servanthood?

### **ACTION STEP (10-15 minutes)**

Choose one of the following or create your own.

- **JOIN:** the Impact Team. Attend Impact 101 on December 6<sup>th</sup>. Register for the event by texting TEAM to 65248.
- **IDENTIFY:** one person or family that you can go above and beyond to serve and do something out of the norm to show them you care.
- **TAKE TIME:** intentionally **pray** that God would change your heart to be filled with humility instead of allowing selfish ambition to sneak in.

### **PRAYER (5-10 minutes)**

- Partner up with one person in your group.
- Share something that you want to apply in your life from this weekend's message.
- Make sure you have one another's numbers and text throughout the week for accountability.

### **GROUP SERVING OPPORTUNITIES**

To determine how your group can serve together in the surrounding community, email Breanne Schafer, Emmanuel's Associate Outreach Director, at [bschafer@eclife.org](mailto:bschafer@eclife.org).

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**UPCOMING EVENTS**

October 31 | Wedding Venue Open House at Garfield Park

November 7 | VERB

*You can find more information on all of these events at [eclife.org](http://eclife.org).*