

STUDY GUIDE

August 30, 2026

START WITH PRAYER

Use this Prayer Prompt



Father, thank You for inviting us to follow Jesus on the road. We admit that so often we carry backpacks full of things we think we need—our security, our desire for status, and our need to preserve our own image and dignity. Help us to examine our hearts today with honesty. Give us the courage to drop the baggage that is weighing us down and holding us back from keeping pace with You. Open our hands and our hearts to receive the real freedom, mercy, and purpose You offer as we follow Jesus wherever He leads. Amen.

STUDY THE BIBLE

Think through and discuss your reactions as you read through Scripture:

- Mark 10:17–22 (The Rich Young Ruler / The Cost of Security)
- Mark 10:35–45 (James & John's Request / The Cost of Status)
- Mark 10:46–52 (Blind Bartimaeus / The Cost of Dignity)

STIR UP DISCUSSION

How does this week's teaching affect me personally?

1. The sermon highlighted three things we often carry: financial security/control (the wallet), status/ambition (the trophy), and image/dignity (the sunglasses). Which of these three resonates or weighs heaviest in your backpack right now?
2. Jesus loved the rich young ruler, yet asked him to surrender the one thing holding him back. Why is Jesus non-negotiable when it comes to being first in our lives, and what is something you find difficult to turn over entirely to Him?
3. Jesus redefined greatness by saying, "Whoever wants to

become great among you must be your servant." In what areas of your life (work, family, church, social circles) are you tempted to seek status, and what would choosing a "towel" look like instead?

4. Bartimaeus threw aside his cloak—his only source of protection, identity, and security as a beggar—to get to Jesus. What holds us back from crying out to Jesus with that same level of unreserved, undignified desperation?
5. The message noted that "Jesus can't fill you until you are empty." What is the difference between asking God for "more faith" versus letting go of baggage so you can keep up on the journey with Him?

STEP INTO ACTION

Let's try to apply this by taking some Next Steps.

1. Do a Backpack Inventory:

Sit down this week with a piece of paper and prayerfully ask, "What am I carrying that Jesus is asking me to drop?" Write down any areas of security, status, or self-image you are clinging to, and pray over letting them go.

2. Serve Without Payback:

Choose one specific way this week to sit in the seat of service by serving someone who cannot pay you back or give you recognition (e.g., volunteering in children's ministry/Kidville, performing a hidden act of kindness, or serving with no strings attached).

3. Make a Scene:

Stop worrying about what others think and take a bold step toward Jesus this week. Whether through honest, desperate prayer, public bold faith, or reaching out for help, prioritize seeking Jesus over protecting your dignity.