

Live, Love, Learn Together: The Savior's Vision for His Church

Mark 10:35–45 | Mark 1:29–31 | Matthew 4:19

Key Thoughts

1. **Vision answers “how”:** Purpose is why we exist (Love God, Love People). Mission is what we do (Go, Make, Baptize, Teach). Vision is how we carry it out—through Life Groups that follow the Savior's model of gathering a small community together.
2. **Jesus' method was relational, not institutional:** The Gospels are not lecture notes from a weekly class. Jesus made disciples by living, loving, and learning alongside them over three years of shared, everyday life.
3. **Live, Love, Learn flow together:** Mark 1:29–31 shows life happening (a sick family member). John 8:1–11 shows costly love (mercy for the woman caught in adultery). Mark 10:35–45 shows learning through real relational conflict. The three are inseparable.
4. **Community is messy—and that's the point:** Jesus' own disciples jockeyed for power and became indignant with each other, yet they did not shatter. Dysfunction within the group became the classroom for the Savior's deepest teaching on servant leadership.
5. **True greatness is found in service:** Mark 10:43–45 redefines greatness. The Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve and to give His life a ransom for many. That ethic must define how we do life together.

Discussion Questions

1. This series defined Purpose as “why,” Mission as “what,” and Vision as “how.” In your own words, how does following Jesus' model of Life Groups answer the “how” question for the local church?

2. Read Mark 1:29–31. What can we observe about how Jesus and His disciples “did life together” in this brief scene? How does this differ from a Bible-study-only model of discipleship?

3. In Mark 10:35–41, James and John secretly request positions of power and the other ten become indignant. What does it reveal that the rest of the group wanted the same thing? What does it say about Jesus that He used this conflict to teach rather than dismiss the group?

4. Jesus said, “Whoever desires to become great among you shall be your servant” (Mark 10:43, NKJV). How does this redefine the kind of influence or leadership we should pursue inside a Life Group—and outside of it?

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5. The U.S. Surgeon General has identified a “loneliness epidemic.” Why is genuine Christian community—where we are truly known—both the antidote and the thing most of us resist? What makes it scary, and what makes it worth it?
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6. **Personal:** Are you currently in a Life Group? If so, where can you move from comfortable to real—letting people see the messy, authentic you? If not, what is one honest barrier, and what would it take to step in this week?
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Applications

1. **Join or invite:** If you are not in a Life Group, commit to joining one this week. If you are already in one, identify one person who is not and invite them before next Sunday.
2. **Get uncomfortable on purpose:** Move past surface-level interaction. Share a real need, confess a real struggle, or ask someone in your group how they are truly doing—and stay for the answer. Growth lives on the other side of comfort.
3. **Serve before you’re asked:** Following Jesus’ definition of greatness in Mark 10:43–45, find one tangible way to serve someone in your group or community this week—a meal, a phone call, a practical need met—without waiting for the request.

Closing Prayer

Father, thank You for sending Your Son to seek and to save the lost—and for showing us, through His life with the Twelve, what it looks like to make disciples. Forgive us for settling for comfortable distance when You designed us for messy, redemptive closeness. Give us the courage to open our lives to one another—to live together through the hard moments, to love each other with the same scandalous mercy Jesus showed, and to learn from every Christ-centered interaction along the way. Remind us that we are beautiful messes, and that by Your grace, we are better and more beautiful together. Stir us to step in, serve, and follow the Savior’s example—not from obligation, but from the overflow of having been served by Him first. Build Your church, Lord, through Your people living, loving, and learning together. In Jesus’ name, amen.