

# DISCUSSION GUIDE

## *How to Enter the Kingdom of God*

The Gospel of Mark - Week 46

**ICEBREAKER:** What's the story behind a time when you got locked out?

**OVERVIEW:** The most popular religion in America is performance-based religion. It minimizes doctrine and maximizes effort. It's core teaching is that it doesn't really matter what you believe as long as you are a good person. The goal is to be "good enough" in order to "earn" or "deserve" eternal life. The problem with performance-based religion is that it is totally unbiblical. In Mark 10:13-16 we learned that **to enter the kingdom of God, we must receive it as an undeserved gift**. In this discussion we will learn more about how to welcome the kingdom of God like a little child.

1. **Read Mark 10:13-16.** What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend's message did you find to be the most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? Explain. (Or what was your key takeaway from Sunday's message?)
2. Read Luke 18:9-14.
  - a. What was the problem with the Pharisee?
  - b. How is it possible that God accepted a wicked tax collector but not a righteous Pharisee?
  - c. Verse 9 says that this parable is told to "some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and looked down on everyone else." What's wrong with trusting in yourself that you are righteous?
  - d. Do people who trust in their own righteousness also tend to look down on others? Explain?

- e. What is the difference between exalting yourself and humbling yourself, and why does God exalt the humble (see verse 14)?
- f. Are you more like the tax collector or the Pharisee in this story? Explain.

2. What does it teach about the character of God that He has made salvation available as a free gift?
3. In order to enter the kingdom of God you must realize that you don't deserve it, and cannot earn it. Why?
4. "Justice" can be defined as giving someone what they rightly deserve. Since we do not deserve the kingdom of God, how can God continue to be just if He gives us what we do not deserve?
5. If salvation is not based on our performance, then what is the purpose of moral and charitable behavior?
6. If you died today, why would God let you into heaven? How does this question reveal the object of your faith?

**The Last Word:** "But when the kindness of God our Savior and His love for mankind appeared, He saved us—not by works of righteousness that we had done, but according to His mercy." Titus 3:4-5