

## LENTEN FAITH SHARING

### Week One

#### Week One - Mark 10:35-45

The Leader leads the participants through the Centering Prayer Process and Lectio Divina.



Begin with **Centering Prayer**.

Sit comfortably with eyes closed.

Begin to slowly breathe in through your nose and out through your mouth.

As you slowly breathe in, image God breathing breath into your center.

As you breathe out through your mouth, let it be a moment of letting go of your anxieties, worries, anger, hatred, frustrations.

Repeat this practice several times.

1. Choose a Sacred Word or Mantra as a symbol of your intention to consent to God's presence and action within.

Ask God to Abide in you and lead your heart to abide in Him.

Whenever you become aware of distractions, sounds, thoughts of other things, simply return to the Lord with Centering or your prayer word/s.

(Repeat this exercise three to four times, trusting that you are sitting in God's Holy presence by yourself and with your Share group).

While sitting in silence, open your life to become aware of the presence of God with you personally and with the Share Group.

2. **Lectio Divina** – Choose a Reader. The Leader leads the Lectio Divina

**Read Mark 10: 35-45** slowly, while pausing between paragraphs for silence.

Invite participants to rest in silence for a few moments.

Invite participants to savor a word, a phrase or a feeling that rises in them. Reflect on this quietly for a few moments.

The Leader, after some time of silence can invite participants to share this **word** or phrase aloud.

The Reading is slowly read a second time by the Reader.

Pause for silent reflection.

The leader invites participants to share their experience using the Reflection questions below.

1. What in the reading stirred your heart?
2. Does this Scripture story take on meaning for your life?
3. Did you recognize the prefiguring of the Eucharistic cup of Christ's blood? What does the symbolism of drinking the cup teach you about the full implications of sharing in the cup of the Eucharist?
4. Did the story help you make connections to the Eucharist?
5. What did you find enlightening?

### **Commentary**

Two of Jesus' Apostles, James, and John, referred to as Zebedee's son, boldly come forward and make a bold request of Jesus. They also boldly say: "*we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you.*" Jesus lets them speak. Their request is: "Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and the other at your left, when you come into your glory. Wow, what a request of importance which arises from what they feel is their greatness. Jesus gently and accurately responds with: "*You do not know what you are asking.*" He goes on to ask some important questions of them: "*Are you able to drink the cup I drink, or be baptized with the Baptism that I am baptized with?*" Ignorant of what the questions of Jesus mean, they respond with: "*We are able.*" The metaphor of "*Drinking the Cup,*" is used in the Old Testament to refer to acceptance of the destiny assigned by God. In Jesus's case, this involves divine judgment of sin, that Jesus the innocent one, is making amends on behalf of the guilty. The baptism which Jesus is referring to is his crucifixion and death for the salvation of humanity.

The request of James and John for a share in this glory shows their lack of understanding and knowledge that this involves a share in Jesus' sufferings, the endurance of tribulation and suffering for the Gospel. The authority of assigning places of honor in the Kingdom is reserved for God. Jesus had made it clear in previous Scripture passages, that his disciples are to be servants. Their service must flow out of humility and their willingness to stand alongside, rather than personal magnification. The service of Jesus is his passion and death for the sins of humankind.

When the ten apostles hear of their request, they became angry with James and John. It is then that Jesus address them, aware that he and the twelve have become closely connected with one another and that he has given them authority. They are aware that they are chosen by Jesus, but Jesus emphasizes to them how he doesn't want them as leaders, to lord it over others like the Gentile do, for whoever wishes to be first among others must be a slave to all. "*For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.*"

**Action – Connect with the disconnected.**

How or what will you do to share your experience of Eucharist through the Scriptures and worship with someone who is not participating in the Eucharist? Can you gently and lovingly, and without judgment, ask another what prevents them from coming to experience the Eucharist?

Listen! Listen! Listen! The Holy Spirit will provide the words you should speak.

## **Mark 10: 35 - 45**

35 Then James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to him and said to him, “Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you.”

36 He replied, “What do you wish [me] to do for you?”

37 They answered him, “Grant that in your glory we may sit one at your right and the other at your left.”

38 Jesus said to them, “You do not know what you are asking. Can you drink the cup that I drink or be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized?”

39 They said to him, “We can.” Jesus said to them, “The cup that I drink, you will drink, and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized;

40 but to sit at my right or at my left is not mine to give but is for those for whom it has been prepared.”

41 When the ten heard this, they became indignant at James and John.

42 Jesus summoned them and said to them, “You know that those who are recognized as rulers over the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones make their authority over them felt.

43 But it shall not be so among you. Rather, whoever wishes to be great among you will be your servant;

44 whoever wishes to be first among you will be the slave of all.

45 For the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many.”