

NON-SERIES
WEEK 1 DISCUSSION GUIDE
"CONTROL"

READ

This week we talked about control. We all have a desire to control. We all have a thing, or some things, that we just don't want to release our grip from. When we try to control things that are out of our control it can result in stress, anxiety and disappointment.

Mark 10:17-22

As Jesus started on his way, a man ran up to him and fell on his knees before him. "Good teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" "Why do you call me good?" Jesus answered. "No one is good—except God alone. You know the commandments: 'You shall not murder, you shall not commit adultery, you shall not steal, you shall not give false testimony, you shall not defraud, honor your father and mother.'" "Teacher," he declared, "all these I have kept since I was a boy. "Jesus looked at him and loved him. "One thing you lack," he said. "Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me. "At this the man's face fell. He went away sad, because he had great wealth.

A rich young ruler approached Jesus, he had kept the commandments but felt that he was still lacking something. He asked Jesus what he must do to inherit eternal life. Jesus, knowing that this man held on too tightly to his wealth, asked him to give it up. The man went away disheartened, he was defined by his wealth and was unwilling to let it go.

Mark 10:23-26

Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God!" The disciples were amazed at his words. But Jesus said again, "Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God". The disciples were even more amazed, and said to each other, "Who then can be saved?"

Jesus addresses his disciples here, as each one was likely thinking of the thing in their lives they were unwilling to give up. In this story Jesus uses wealth as the example, but this can apply to anything that we are trying to control, that we are holding onto and are not willing to give up.

Mark 10:27

Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with God."

Having faith. Trusting God with something we have been clinging to takes active trust. We have to actively and repeatedly give whatever it is into God's hands. In the case of the rich young ruler, Jesus looked at him, loved him, and told him what was keeping him from a full life, what was keeping him from peace. Peace is found in submission. Whatever you're holding on to will

be so much better when you surrender, and let God have control. There is freedom on the other side of this, freedom in letting go of control.

DISCUSS

If you were to have a face to face with Jesus today, what is one question you would ask him?

What are some things that you try to control? Why do you think this is?

Is there something that you have tried to control in the past but have been able to surrender to Jesus? What did that look like?

The rich young ruler was defined by his wealth. That is what Jesus asked him to give up. If you were to have a similar conversation with Jesus today, what do you think he would ask you to release?

How do you think your life would look different if you surrendered this to Jesus?

What is one step you can take this week to loosen your grip, to surrender this to Him?

PRAY FOR YOUR GROUP

Pray that we would encourage one another to actively trust Jesus. Pray that He would search our hearts for anything that we have not yet surrendered to Him and that we would have the courage to let it go.

PRAY FOR FCC

Pray that we would not hold on too tightly to anything, that we would surrender all to Jesus.

PRAY FOR OUR GLOBAL PARTNERS

Pray for our global partners, that they would live lives fully surrendered to Christ. Pray that they would have courage to give up anything that would get in the way of fully following Jesus.