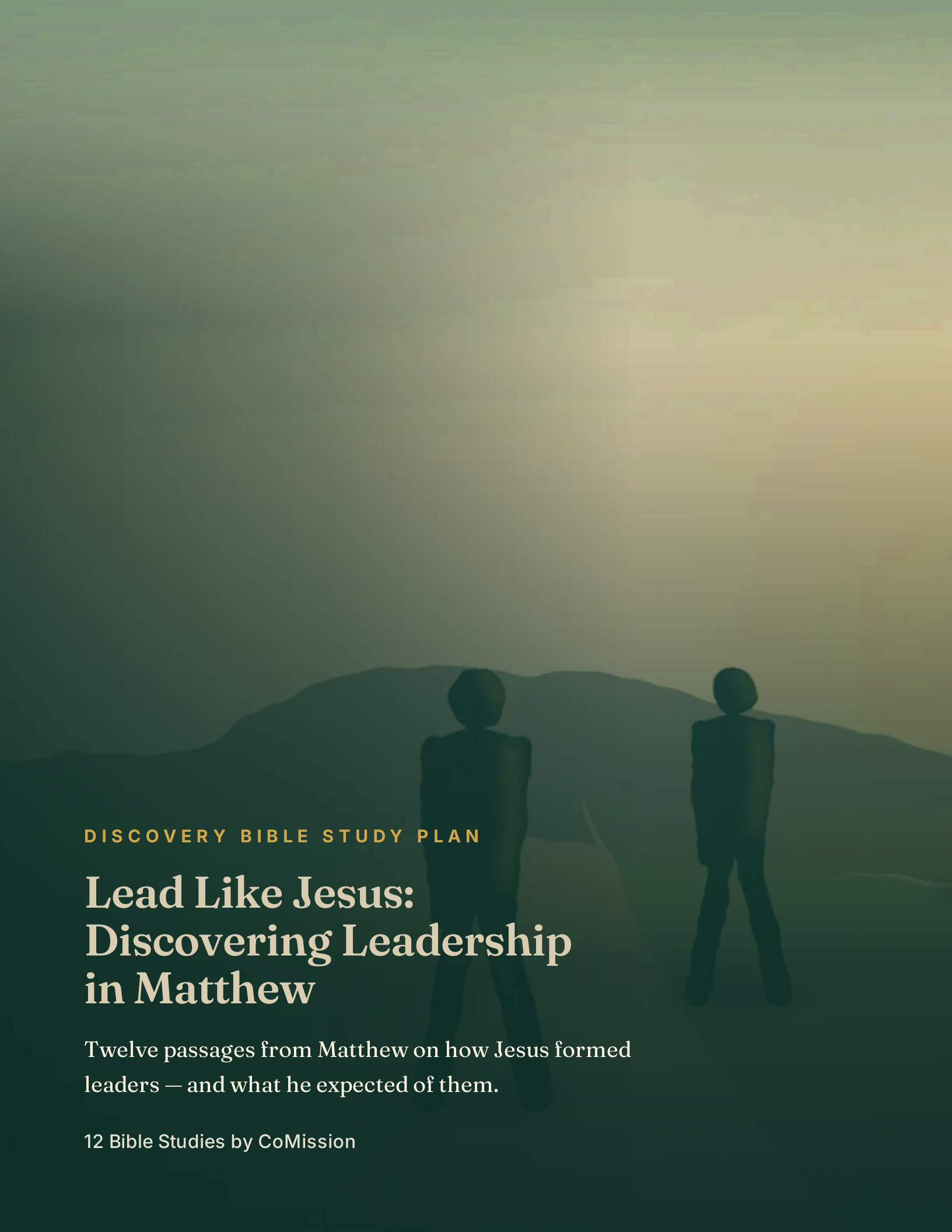

DISCOVERY BIBLE STUDY PLAN

Lead Like Jesus: Discovering Leadership in Matthew

Twelve passages from Matthew on how Jesus formed leaders — and what he expected of them.

12 Bible Studies by CoMission

DISCOVERY BIBLE STUDY

Lead Like Jesus: Discovering Leadership in Matthew

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More Bible study plans at **comission.cc**

How a Discovery Bible Study works

This page is for whoever leads the study. Everyone else only needs the passage.

A Discovery Bible Study has no teacher. The person leading only asks the questions; the Bible does the teaching. That is what makes it simple enough for anyone to lead — no title, no training, no materials, no money.

EAT, DIGEST, GROW

Eat the Word — Read the passage aloud, read it again, then close the Bible and have someone retell it in their own words. Reading is the bite, re-reading the chewing, the retelling the swallow. If the group can't retell it, read it once more before going on.

Digest — Work through the four questions. This is where the passage turns into faith and obedience — answered from what the text actually says, not from what someone already knew.

Grow — Growth is God's part, not yours. One plants, another waters, but God gives the growth (1 Corinthians 3:6–7). Do the cycle faithfully and leave the growing to Him.

THE FOUR QUESTIONS

Answer from what the passage actually says — stay in the text.

1. **What does this passage show me about God?**
2. **What does it show me about people — and about myself?**
3. **What will I obey this week? (a concrete step, with a day)**
4. **Who will I tell?**

THE SHAPE OF A MEETING

Look back — What are you thankful for? What is hard right now? How did you obey what we found last time, and who did you tell? Pray briefly for each other.

Look up — Read, re-read, retell — then the four questions.

Look forward — Each person says their own “I will…” out loud and names one person they will tell. Next time, the group asks about both. Asking is what turns a discussion into obedience.

THE ONE RULE: DON'T TEACH

The moment you start explaining, the group stops discovering. If someone says something that is not in the passage, do not correct them — ask, kindly, “Where do you see that in this passage?” and let them look. The text and the group sort it out. This is the rule that lets someone who has been in two studies lead the third.

Four to fifteen people. About an hour, once a week. Nothing else required.

How to use this plan

Who this is for

- **Run this with your leaders — or your most faithful people.** Twelve passages from Matthew for an established group that already has the DBS habits, especially those who lead others or soon will.
- **Discovery, not a leadership course.** The group discovers what Jesus expects of leaders straight from the text. Don't lecture it — what you tell them they'll forget; what they discover they'll own.

How to use it

- **The same DBS discipline as every plan.** Read the passage, retell it in your own words, work the four questions, and end with an honest **"I will…"** and one person you'll tell.
- **Facilitate, don't teach.** You're leading a study about leadership — the strongest thing you can model is leading by asking. Keep asking, "Where do you see that in the passage?" *Don't chew their food for them.*
- **Press the "I will…" toward how they lead.** Whom they will serve, send, correct, and forgive this week — not private devotion only.

— DISCOVERY BIBLE STUDY

CoMission

Leaders call others to follow

Matthew 4:18-25

1 Eat

Read the passage slowly, read it again, then retell it in your own words. If you can't retell it, read it once more.

☐ Read ☐ Reread ☐ Retell

2 Digest

Answer from what the passage actually says — stay in the text.

1. **What does this passage show me about God?**

   What does Jesus say to the fishermen, and what do they leave behind to follow him?

2. **What does it show me about people — and about myself?**

   When Jesus called you, what did following him cost you — and what is it still costing?

3. **What will I obey this week? (a concrete step, with a day)**

   Whom will you personally invite this week to follow Jesus alongside you, the way he invited Simon and Andrew?

4. **Who will I tell?**

   Which person you lead could you tell the story of how Jesus first called you?

3 Grow

Growth is God's part, not yours. Do the cycle faithfully and trust Him to give the growth (1 Corinthians 3:6–7).

✦ Pray

> *Jesus, you called ordinary fishermen and promised to make them fishers of people. Give me courage to call others to follow you, and faith that you will do the making.*

This study online

NEXT STUDY The attitudes God blesses comission.cc/en/study/lead-like-jesus/02/

DISCOVERY BIBLE STUDY

CoMission

The attitudes God blesses

Matthew 5:1-16

1 Eat

Read the passage slowly, read it again, then retell it in your own words. If you can't retell it, read it once more.

☐ Read ☐ Reread ☐ Retell

2 Digest

Answer from what the passage actually says — stay in the text.

1. **What does this passage show me about God?**

   Whom does Jesus call blessed, and what does he say about salt and light?

2. **What does it show me about people — and about myself?**

   Which of these attitudes is most missing in the way you lead right now?

3. **What will I obey this week? (a concrete step, with a day)**

   Which beatitude will you deliberately practice this week in front of the people you lead?

4. **Who will I tell?**

   Who is watching your life this week who needs to see good works that point to the Father?

3 Grow

Growth is God's part, not yours. Do the cycle faithfully and trust Him to give the growth (1 Corinthians 3:6–7).

✦ Pray

> *Father, form in me the heart you bless — poor in spirit, merciful, hungry for righteousness. Make my life salt and light, so that people see my works and glorify you.*

This study online

NEXT STUDY Leaders serve God, not money

DISCOVERY BIBLE STUDY

CoMission

Leaders serve God, not money

Matthew 6:19-34

1 Eat

Read the passage slowly, read it again, then retell it in your own words. If you can't retell it, read it once more.

☐ Read ☐ Reread ☐ Retell

2 Digest

Answer from what the passage actually says — stay in the text.

1. **What does this passage show me about God?**

   What two masters does Jesus contrast, and what does he tell his followers to seek first?

2. **What does it show me about people — and about myself?**

   Where do money or worry quietly steer your decisions as a leader?

3. **What will I obey this week? (a concrete step, with a day)**

   What concrete step will you take this week to put God's kingdom ahead of money in your leadership — in your time, your giving, or a decision you've been avoiding?

4. **Who will I tell?**

   Which anxious person you lead will you help this week to seek the kingdom first?

3 Grow

Growth is God's part, not yours. Do the cycle faithfully and trust Him to give the growth (1 Corinthians 3:6–7).

✦ Pray

> *Father, you know what I need before I ask. Free me from serving money and from worry, so that I seek your kingdom first and lead others to trust you.*

This study online

NEXT STUDY Hearing and doing comission.cc/en/study/lead-like-jesus/04/

— DISCOVERY BIBLE STUDY

CoMission

Hearing and doing

Matthew 7:21-29

1 Eat

Read the passage slowly, read it again, then retell it in your own words. If you can't retell it, read it once more.

☐ Read ☐ Reread ☐ Retell

2 Digest

Answer from what the passage actually says — stay in the text.

1. **What does this passage show me about God?**

   What is the difference between the two builders, and between saying 'Lord, Lord' and doing the Father's will?

2. **What does it show me about people — and about myself?**

   Where is there a gap between what you teach others and what you actually do?

3. **What will I obey this week? (a concrete step, with a day)**

   What word of Jesus that you already know will you finally put into practice this week?

4. **Who will I tell?**

   How will you help your group move from hearing to doing this week — what obedience will you ask them about?

3 Grow

Growth is God's part, not yours. Do the cycle faithfully and trust Him to give the growth (1 Corinthians 3:6–7).

✦ Pray

> *Lord, don't let me be a leader who says 'Lord, Lord' but does not do your Father's will. Build my life and my leading on hearing your words and doing them.*

This study online

NEXT STUDY Leaders welcome outcasts and sinners

— DISCOVERY BIBLE STUDY

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Leaders welcome outcasts and sinners

Matthew 9:9-13

1 Eat

Read the passage slowly, read it again, then retell it in your own words. If you can't retell it, read it once more.

☐ Read ☐ Reread ☐ Retell

2 Digest

Answer from what the passage actually says — stay in the text.

1. **What does this passage show me about God?**

   Whom does Jesus call and eat with, and how does he answer the Pharisees?

2. **What does it show me about people — and about myself?**

   Which people have you, perhaps without noticing, treated as too far gone for your group?

3. **What will I obey this week? (a concrete step, with a day)**

   Whom that others avoid will you welcome this week — invite, eat with, include?

4. **Who will I tell?**

   How will you lead your group this week to make room for someone labeled a 'sinner'?

3 Grow

Growth is God's part, not yours. Do the cycle faithfully and trust Him to give the growth (1 Corinthians 3:6–7).

✦ Pray

> *Jesus, you called Matthew from the tax booth and sat at his table. Teach me mercy, and make my table — and our group — a place where sinners meet you.*

This study online

NEXT STUDY Compassion sees the harvest

— DISCOVERY BIBLE STUDY

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Compassion sees the harvest

Matthew 9:35-38

1 Eat

Read the passage slowly, read it again, then retell it in your own words. If you can't retell it, read it once more.

☐ Read ☐ Reread ☐ Retell

2 Digest

Answer from what the passage actually says — stay in the text.

1. **What does this passage show me about God?**

   What does Jesus see when he looks at the crowds, and what does he tell his disciples to pray?

2. **What does it show me about people — and about myself?**

   When you look at your town, do you see a burden or a harvest?

3. **What will I obey this week? (a concrete step, with a day)**

   Will you pray daily this week for the Lord of the harvest to send workers — naming the ones you are asking him to raise up from your group?

4. **Who will I tell?**

   Whom in your group will you tell that you believe God could send them into the harvest?

3 Grow

Growth is God's part, not yours. Do the cycle faithfully and trust Him to give the growth (1 Corinthians 3:6–7).

✦ Pray

> *Lord of the harvest, give me your compassion for the harassed and helpless around me. The harvest is plentiful — send out workers, and start with the people I lead.*

This study online

NEXT STUDY **Leaders send others out** comission.cc/en/study/lead-like-jesus/07/

— DISCOVERY BIBLE STUDY

CoMission

Leaders send others out

Matthew 10:1-15

1 Eat

Read the passage slowly, read it again, then retell it in your own words. If you can't retell it, read it once more.

☐ Read ☐ Reread ☐ Retell

2 Digest

Answer from what the passage actually says — stay in the text.

1. **What does this passage show me about God?**

   What authority and instructions does Jesus give the twelve when he sends them out?

2. **What does it show me about people — and about myself?**

   What keeps you doing the ministry yourself instead of sending others?

3. **What will I obey this week? (a concrete step, with a day)**

   Whom will you send this week — with a real task, real trust, and prayer?

4. **Who will I tell?**

   With whom will you share this passage — someone who is ready to be sent and doesn't know it yet?

3 Grow

Growth is God's part, not yours. Do the cycle faithfully and trust Him to give the growth (1 Corinthians 3:6–7).

✦ Pray

> *Jesus, you gave your disciples authority and sent them out. Help me stop doing everything myself, and give me faith to send the people I lead — freely we received, freely we give.*

This study online

NEXT STUDY Prepared for opposition comission.cc/en/study/lead-like-jesus/08/

— DISCOVERY BIBLE STUDY

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Prepared for opposition

Matthew 10:16-31

1 Eat

Read the passage slowly, read it again, then retell it in your own words. If you can't retell it, read it once more.

☐ Read ☐ Reread ☐ Retell

2 Digest

Answer from what the passage actually says — stay in the text.

1. **What does this passage show me about God?**

   What kinds of opposition does Jesus predict, and what reasons does he give not to be afraid?

2. **What does it show me about people — and about myself?**

   What opposition or criticism have you faced for following Jesus, and how did you respond?

3. **What will I obey this week? (a concrete step, with a day)**

   How will you prepare the people you lead this week for opposition, instead of promising them comfort?

4. **Who will I tell?**

   Whom who is suffering for their faith will you encourage this week — and what from this passage will you share with them?

3 Grow

Growth is God's part, not yours. Do the cycle faithfully and trust Him to give the growth (1 Corinthians 3:6–7).

✦ Pray

> *Father, you send us out like sheep among wolves. When opposition comes, keep me from fear, teach me to trust your Spirit for words, and help me prepare those I lead for the same.*

This study online

NEXT STUDY The cost of leading comission.cc/en/study/lead-like-jesus/09/

DISCOVERY BIBLE STUDY

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The cost of leading

Matthew 16:13-28

1 Eat

Read the passage slowly, read it again, then retell it in your own words. If you can't retell it, read it once more.

☐ Read ☐ Reread ☐ Retell

2 Digest

Answer from what the passage actually says — stay in the text.

1. **What does this passage show me about God?**

   What does Peter confess about Jesus, and why does Jesus then rebuke him?

2. **What does it show me about people — and about myself?**

   Where, like Peter, do you want the Christ without the cross?

3. **What will I obey this week? (a concrete step, with a day)**

   What will denying yourself concretely look like in your leadership this week?

4. **Who will I tell?**

   With whom will you talk honestly this week about the cost of following Jesus before inviting them to lead?

3 Grow

Growth is God's part, not yours. Do the cycle faithfully and trust Him to give the growth (1 Corinthians 3:6–7).

✦ Pray

> *Jesus, you are the Christ, the Son of the living God. Keep me from setting my mind on the things of man, and give me courage to take up my cross and lead others to do the same.*

This study online

NEXT STUDY Dealing with sin, and forgiving

— DISCOVERY BIBLE STUDY

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Dealing with sin, and forgiving

Matthew 18:15-35

1 Eat

Read the passage slowly, read it again, then retell it in your own words. If you can't retell it, read it once more.

☐ Read ☐ Reread ☐ Retell

2 Digest

Answer from what the passage actually says — stay in the text.

1. **What does this passage show me about God?**

   What steps does Jesus give for dealing with a brother's sin, and what happens in the parable of the unmerciful servant?

2. **What does it show me about people — and about myself?**

   Whom do you find hardest to forgive — and what debt of yours has God canceled?

3. **What will I obey this week? (a concrete step, with a day)**

   What conversation about sin or offense have you been avoiding that you will have — privately and gently — this week?

4. **Who will I tell?**

   With whom in your group will you share Jesus' pattern for handling offense, so conflicts stop spreading sideways?

3 Grow

Growth is God's part, not yours. Do the cycle faithfully and trust Him to give the growth (1 Corinthians 3:6–7).

✦ Pray

> *Father, give me the humility to go to my brother directly and the mercy to forgive from my heart, remembering the enormous debt you canceled for me.*

This study online

NEXT STUDY Greatness is serving comission.cc/en/study/lead-like-jesus/11/

DISCOVERY BIBLE STUDY

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Greatness is serving

Matthew 20:20-28

1 Eat

Read the passage slowly, read it again, then retell it in your own words. If you can't retell it, read it once more.

☐ Read ☐ Reread ☐ Retell

2 Digest

Answer from what the passage actually says — stay in the text.

1. **What does this passage show me about God?**

   What does the mother of James and John ask, and how does Jesus redefine greatness?

2. **What does it show me about people — and about myself?**

   Where do you catch yourself wanting the honors of leadership more than its towel?

3. **What will I obey this week? (a concrete step, with a day)**

   What hidden, lowly act of service will you do this week for someone you lead — with no one watching?

4. **Who will I tell?**

   Who needs to hear from you this week that in Jesus' kingdom greatness means serving?

3 Grow

Growth is God's part, not yours. Do the cycle faithfully and trust Him to give the growth (1 Corinthians 3:6–7).

✦ Pray

> *Jesus, you did not come to be served but to serve and to give your life as a ransom for many. Put to death the ruler in me and grow the servant, so that I lead the way you led.*

This study online

NEXT STUDY Teach others to obey everything

— DISCOVERY BIBLE STUDY

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Teach others to obey everything

Matthew 28:16-20

1 Eat

Read the passage slowly, read it again, then retell it in your own words. If you can't retell it, read it once more.

☐ Read ☐ Reread ☐ Retell

2 Digest

Answer from what the passage actually says — stay in the text.

1. **What does this passage show me about God?**

   What does Jesus claim, command, and promise in these verses?

2. **What does it show me about people — and about myself?**

   Are you making disciples who obey Jesus — or students who only know about him?

3. **What will I obey this week? (a concrete step, with a day)**

   Whom will you begin deliberately discipling toward obedience this week?

4. **Who will I tell?**

   Who could join you in making disciples — and when will you ask them?

3 Grow

Growth is God's part, not yours. Do the cycle faithfully and trust Him to give the growth (1 Corinthians 3:6–7).

✦ Pray

> *Lord Jesus, all authority in heaven and on earth is yours. Send me to make disciples who obey everything you commanded, and remind me that you are with me always.*

This study online

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