

GroupWork

Bible Study Discussion Starters

Life application materials for use in Life Groups, home devotions, and other small groups.

The Last Will Be First and The First Last

1. American Christians enjoy many advantages that other Christians around the world do not enjoy. Give some examples.

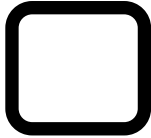
2. Read Mark 10:17-31.
 - a. Why do you think Mark includes the sentence “Jesus looked at him and loved him”? (Mark 10:21)

 - b. Do you think it is harder for Americans to enter the kingdom of God than people in third world countries? Why do you think as you do?

 - c. In what way do we receive “a hundred times as much in this present age”? (Compare Mark 10:29-30 and Matthew 20:28-29. You will notice that each records a different promise from Jesus.)

3. Read Matthew 20:1-16.
 - a. In this parable, do you see yourself as one of the first hired or one of the last?

 - b. What lesson do you take away from this parable?



NoteSheet

Sermon Outline

Take notes during the sermon to help you remember the main points

“Unexpected” Message Series Is God Unfair? Matthew 20:1-16

- I. God's Not Fair!
 - a. God demands so much! (Matthew 19:16-22)
 - b. God promises so much! (Matthew 19:27-29)

2. It's Not Fair!
 - a. The comfort for the Last: The generosity of our God.
 - b. The judgment on the First: The self-centeredness of me.

The cycle of questions: Am I the last? Am I the first?

My Next Steps

- **Meditate:** Let this statement run through your mind during this week: “So the last will be first, and the first will be last.” How does that convict you? How does that comfort you?
- **Memorize:** To combat the feeling that God isn't fair, memorize Jesus' promise of what we are about to receive: “At the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man sits on his glorious throne... everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children of fields for my sake will receive a hundred times as much and will inherit eternal life” (Matthew 19:28-29).