

QUESTIONS WORTH ANSWERING

Can You Drink This Cup?

INTRO

Have you ever enthusiastically agreed to something, only to discover later that it required much more of you than you anticipated? What happened?

READ

Mark 10:32–45

As Jesus approaches Jerusalem, He tells His disciples about the suffering and death that await Him. Yet James and John are focused on securing positions of honour in His kingdom. Jesus challenges their understanding of greatness with a question: **“Can you drink the cup I drink?”**

REFLECT

1. The Cup of Jesus — Understanding the Cost

James and John confidently declared that they could drink the cup Jesus would drink, without fully understanding what that meant. Later, in Gethsemane, Jesus Himself wrestled with the suffering ahead but willingly submitted to His Father's will.

Read Mark 10:38–39; Mark 14:36; John 18:11

Qu: What do these passages teach us about the cost of following Jesus?

Qu: What can we learn from Jesus' response to the Father when faced with suffering?

2. Our Cup — Accepting Our Portion

The Bible sometimes uses the cup as a picture of our portion or lot in life. While each person's circumstances and calling may look different, Jesus calls each of us to follow Him faithfully.

Read Psalm 16:5; John 21:21–22.

Qu: How can comparing our circumstances, opportunities, or challenges with those of others affect our contentment and willingness to follow Jesus?

Qu: What does it mean to acknowledge Jesus as Lord, even when our circumstances are not what we hoped or expected?

3. The Cup We're Called to Drink — Service, Sacrifice, and Suffering

Jesus redefines greatness in terms of serving others rather than being served. Following Him involves service—what we give; sacrifice—what it costs us; and sometimes suffering—what we are called to endure.

RESPOND

Qu: Is there an area of your life where you have been resisting or questioning the portion God has given you? What might surrendering that area to Jesus look like?

Qu: Following Jesus often requires us to surrender our preferences, ambitions, comfort, and expectations. Is there something specific God may be asking you to lay down?

PRAY

Psalm 116:12–14

“What shall I return to the Lord for all his goodness to me? I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord.”

As you pray for one another:

Give thanks for the gift of salvation

Offer your lives to God in surrender.

Ask for grace to embrace your portion in life with gratitude rather than comparison or complaint.

Pray for strength and faithfulness to follow Jesus through service, sacrifice, and suffering, wherever He leads.