

### 3. The Cross is at the centre of great leadership.

Jesus tells Peter he will become the new leader of the community not because Peter is the biggest success but because he is the biggest repenter and because he was honest with how he had failed. What does it mean for us to “turn back” (being willing to repent)?

### 4. The Cross is at the centre of forgiveness.

Forgiveness is about paying the cost (bearing the pain and hurt) for our sins. How have you experienced forgiveness from Jesus? Was there a point in your life where you asked for his forgiveness and said yes to Jesus?

Share your stories.

How can I become more thoughtful in centring this week before Easter on the cross and not on myself?

#### Prayer

Praise God that we can know forgiveness.

Pray for others who need forgiveness.

Pray that we might be able to forgive others.



# Towards Jerusalem

## “Stories from Luke Pointing to the Cross”

### Growth Group Study Guide

#### Week 4: Humility and Greatness

## 28 March 2021

## Luke 22: 14-34

#### Series Overview:

Towards Jerusalem is a series that is going to take us all the way to Easter. It's based on Luke 10-24 and follows Jesus on his journey to Jerusalem. The first nine chapters of Luke focus primarily on who Jesus is. But when you get to chapter 9, the focus shifts.

We are told in chapter 9, verse 51:

*“As the time approached for him to be taken up to heaven, Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem.”*

Luke 9:51(NIV)

### **Series Overview continued:**

From that point forward, the narrative of Luke's gospel is all about Jesus' journey to Jerusalem. It is not a journey driven by geographical landmarks or distance milestones. Rather, it is a journey of the heart. Jesus is preparing himself and his disciples for all that awaits them in Jerusalem. He is preparing them for the cross. But more than that, Jesus is preparing them for that which comes after the cross. He is preparing them for the resurrection and for the mission to which those who have been raised to life in Christ have been called.

On his way to Jerusalem, Jesus speaks to his disciples and to those he meets along the way. His words are both comforting and jarring, encouraging and challenging, gentle and harsh. They are words that proclaim the kingdom of God. And they invite the listener to not only embrace this kingdom but to devote their lives to advancing it. Jesus' journey to Jerusalem begins and ends with a very specific call for his disciples to be on mission.

## **Week 4: Humility and Greatness**

Text: Luke 22:14-34

In the midst of a meal where Jesus is investing new meaning in the bread and the cup of Passover and using it as a reminder of his impending sacrificial death, an argument breaks out among the disciples. The most important event in human history is about to take place, and the disciples are arguing about which of them will be the greatest in the Kingdom of God. Jesus uses it as a teaching moment and reminds them that true greatness is not about prestige, position or power. It's about humility, sacrifice, and servanthood. It's a message that was almost lost on the disciples because they were so wrapped up in their own concerns.

Sometimes, we are guilty of the same thing. We become so preoccupied with our own concerns about recognition and acknowledgment that we miss the meaning of the bread and the cup. We miss the meaning of the towel and the basin. The idea of leadership in God's Kingdom is so

countercultural. Leaders in our culture are often selfish and arrogant as they claw their way to the top. But, for those who follow Jesus, leadership is about serving. God is able to use servant leaders, even when they stumble and fall. Peter was confident that his faith would never falter. But it did – spectacularly. Even so, Peter's repentant heart and Jesus' overwhelming grace allowed Peter to live out the rest of his life in a world-changing service to the King.

At the meal, Jesus reminds the disciples (and us) about four things:

### **1. The Cross is at the centre of history.**

Jesus reminds the disciples about the past here but points to the future. He talks about what is going to happen. What did he say about the difficult time ahead?

### **2. The Cross is at the centre of a whole new community.**

As they eat this sacred meal, an argument breaks out about who is going to be the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. Jesus said in his new Kingdom, you love people not for your sake but for their sake. Even though we know that, why is it so tempting to seek greatness and recognition?

How can our relationships become about serving others instead of serving ourselves somehow?