

Introduction:

The season of Lent is a 40-day call to deepen our faith through self-reflection. Often, when we are honest with ourselves and our shortcomings, it can lead us down a path toward feeling isolated and alone. It may cause us to believe that the level of God's love for us is tied to our performance. Nothing could be further from the truth! God loves us in spite of our feelings or circumstances.

Scripture:

Jesus Teaches about Serving Others

Then the mother of James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to Jesus with her sons. She knelt respectfully to ask a favor. "What is your request?" he asked.

She replied, "In your Kingdom, please let my two sons sit in places of honor next to you, one on your right and the other on your left." But Jesus answered by saying to them, "You don't know what you are asking! Are you able to drink from the bitter cup of suffering I am about to drink?" "Oh yes," they replied, "we are able!"

Jesus told them, "You will indeed drink from my bitter cup. But I have no right to say who will sit on my right or my left. My Father has prepared those places for the ones he has chosen."

When the ten other disciples heard what James and John had asked, they were indignant. But Jesus called them together and said, "You know that the rulers in this world lord it over their people, and officials flaunt their authority over those under them. But among you it will be different. Whoever wants to be a leader among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first among you must become your slave.

For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many." —Matthew 20:20-28

Discussion Questions:

1. How is God's definition of leadership different than the world's?
2. How have you seen "fear" cause a mess?
3. How can the fact that we live randomized, free lives change how we respond to our fear?
4. Tell about a situation that made you feel powerless.
5. Name something in your life that you feel like you can control without God.