

The Competitive Edge

As you gather together to hear and apply God's Word, start by sharing how you were influenced by the previous study since your group last met. Use the following questions for review.

D Debrief & Interpret

- How did you apply the previous Scripture study?
- What did you learn about God as you applied the Word? What did you learn about yourself?

H Hear the Word

Whether intentionally or not, nursing school breeds a sense of competition among students. How should we handle a competitive spirit? What does Jesus have to say about this attitude?

[Read Mark 10:35-45.](#)

³⁵ Then James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to him. "Teacher," they said, "we want you to do for us whatever we ask."

³⁶ "What do you want me to do for you?" he asked.

³⁷ They replied, "Let one of us sit at your right and the other at your left in your glory."

³⁸ "You don't know what you are asking," Jesus said. "Can you drink the cup I drink or be baptized with the baptism I am baptized with?"

³⁹ "We can," they answered.

Jesus said to them, "You will drink the cup I drink and be baptized with the baptism I am baptized with, ⁴⁰ but to sit at my right or left is not for me to grant. These places belong to those for whom they have been prepared."

⁴¹ When the ten heard about this, they became indignant with James and John. ⁴² Jesus called them together and said, "You know that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. ⁴³ Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, ⁴⁴ and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. ⁴⁵ For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."



Discuss:

- What do you think motivated James and John to make their request to sit at the right and left hand of Jesus (v. 37)?
- The “cup” and “baptism” Jesus refers to in verse 38 is his future suffering and death on the cross. Why do you think Jesus brings up suffering in response to the request of James and John (v. 38-40)?
- How is servanthood the path to greatness? How does Jesus want his disciples to live and lead (v. 42-45)?



Respond Actively

As you end your study together, choose one or both of the options below to apply the Scripture to your life this week.

- *Internal:* According to Jesus, striving for greatness and recognition has no room in the Kingdom of God. In your nursing school experience, where are you tempted to seek and strive for greatness and recognition? Take some time this week to surrender your desire for greatness to Jesus and invite him to grant you a heart of servanthood instead.
- *External:* According to this story, the antidote to the competitive spirit in nursing school is a servant-like heart. Brainstorm together how your NCF chapter can selflessly serve nursing students and faculty on campus. You may want to think about serving them particularly during intensely competitive times such as tests or exams. Then pick an idea as a group and put it into action in the next few weeks!