**Growth Group Questions**

***Reflect***

1. What did Jesus do when the disciples started to argue about who was the greatest?

2. Why use a child as an object lesson?

Consider the following quote by C.S. Lewis from Mere Christianity,

“*If you want to find out how proud you are the easiest way is to ask yourself, ‘How much do I dislike it when other people snub me, or refuse to take any notice of me, or shove their oar in, or patronise me, or show off?’ The point is that each person’s pride is in competition with everyone else’s pride…Pride is essentially competitive - is competitive by its very nature - while the other vices are competitive only, so to speak, by accident. Pride gets no pleasure out of having something, only out of having more of it than the next man. We say that people are proud of being rich, or clever, or good-looking, but they are not. They are proud of being richer, or cleverer, or better-looking than others. If everyone else became equally rich, or clever, or good-looking there would be nothing to be proud about. It is the comparison that makes you proud: the pleasure of being above the rest. Once the element of competition has gone, pride has gone.”*

3. Being open and honest, have you ever gone through a season when you struggled with pride? How did it affect your relationships with others? How does the cross deal with our human pride?

4. What do you think is the point of John’s encounter in v.49? How does the cross speak into our tendency to envy and competitiveness? See Numbers 11:29, Philippians 1:18

5. What was James and John’s reaction to the Samaritans’ rejection? How did Jesus respond to this great prejudice between the Jews and the Samaritans? How does the cross put Jews and Samaritans on equal footing? How would the cross change things between Jews and Samaritans in the future? See Luke 10:30-33. John 3:17

***Respond***

What surprised you from the text?

What was most impressed on you as you studied this text and/or heard the sermon?

How can our love for Christ grow through our meditation on the cross? How should it affect our love for others that are difficult to love?