

**LIFE OF CHRIST**  
from the gospel of  
**Mark**

**LESSON 32**

**WHO IS THE  
GREATEST?**

**MARK 9:30-37**

# Life of Christ

## Who is the Greatest?

## Mark 9:30-37

### Younger Verse

"If you want to be first, you must be the very last." Mark 9:35

### Older Verse

"If you want to be first, you must be the very last. You must be the servant of everyone." Mark 9:35

### Lesson Goals

**Learn what it means to be a servant**  
**Understand that Jesus became a servant of all people**  
**Recognize that we must think of others before ourselves**

### Opener

*We all like to be first in line or first place. But what about everyone else? We can't all be first all the time! What if we let someone else go first? Jesus likes it when we think about others first.*

### Bible Story

*Please note: This portion of the lesson is given to help in teaching the lesson. Please read through the story and read it in the Bible. Do **NOT** read from this piece of paper. Instead, make a note sheet and place it next to the story in the Bible.*

Last week we learned about when Jesus healed a boy of an evil spirit. He shared with His disciples that those kinds of spirits can only be removed through prayer.

Jesus took His disciples to a different area. They were passing through an area called Galilee. Jesus did not want anyone to know where they were. Why do you think Jesus wanted to keep it a secret? He wanted to teach His disciples privately. He had something important to teach, but it was meant only for the disciples' ears.

Jesus said, "The Son of Man is going to be betrayed into the hands of men. They will kill Him, and after three days, He will rise." This was the second time that Jesus had told the disciples what was going to happen to Him. But the disciples still did not understand what Jesus was talking about. And they didn't ask Jesus about it because they were too afraid.

They continued walking because they were headed toward Capernaum. As they were walking, the disciples got into an argument. They were arguing about which disciple would be the greatest. Once they arrived in Capernaum, they went inside a house. Jesus gathered the disciples together and asked them, "What were you arguing about on the road?" None of the disciples wanted to answer Jesus because they were embarrassed. They realized that they should not have been arguing about this.

Jesus sat down and said to them, "If you want to be first, you must be the very last. You must be the servant of everyone." What did Jesus mean? How could someone be first and last at the same time? Jesus wanted His disciples to know how to become great. Jesus said they needed to be a **servant**. A servant does things for other people. They think about other people before themselves. When someone is being a servant to others, they put them-

selves last. Jesus was saying that this is the way for the disciples, and for us, to be first. We need to think of other people first!

Then Jesus did something interesting. He took a child, and the child stood in the middle of them. Jesus hugged the child. He told His followers that the way they treat children is the way they are treating Him. He knew that some people may think children are not very important. He was teaching them that it is important to treat children just like they would treat Him.

This was important for the disciples to learn, but also for us. When we think of other people first, we are being like Jesus! Always thinking of yourself first is being selfish. We can share what we have with others. What kinds of things can you share?

Jesus showed us an amazing example of what a true servant does. When He died on the cross, He was thinking of others. If Jesus had been selfish, then we would not have a way to heaven. Instead, Jesus wanted us to be with Him in heaven. Once He came back to life, he gave us an open door to be with Him. All we have to do is ask Him into our heart. When He comes into our heart, He takes out all the sins, the bad things we have done. Then we have a clean heart. If you want to know about Jesus being in your heart, please talk with me.

#### Review Questions

1. Why did Jesus not want people to know where He was? (He needed to teach the disciples some things.)
2. What were the disciples arguing about on the road? (They were arguing about who was the greatest disciple.)
3. What did Jesus tell the disciples about being first? (“If you want to be first, you must be the very last. You must be the servant of everyone.”)
4. What does it mean to be a servant? (To think of others before ourselves.)

#### Prayer Time

Thank God for the wonderful example we have in Jesus. Pray that we will follow His example of being a servant.

#### Life Application

Jesus set an example of being a servant. He washed His disciples’ feet, a job normally done by servants. He allowed Himself to be beaten and crucified so that we could have eternal life. If Jesus had only thought of Himself, He would not have done those things.

Do you only think about yourself? If you do, you are probably not a very happy person. God knows that we will be happy when we think about others. The Bible says that Jesus went through all of the pain and suffering because He knew the joy that He would have later—when He rose from the dead. It also says that we should follow Jesus’ example and not give up (Hebrews 12:2-3).

Planning for Lesson 33  
Jesus Loves Children  
Mark 10:13-16

## Preschool Lesson for Who is the Greatest?

Boys and girls, I am so glad each of you are here. Have you ever gotten into an argument with someone else? You wanted to do one thing, but the other person wanted to do something different. Our story today is about a time some of Jesus' friends, the disciples, got into an argument.

Jesus and the disciples were walking through a big area called Galilee. (Talk in a soft voice.) Jesus wanted to keep it a secret that He was there. He had something important to share with His disciples. (Have the children come in close.) Jesus told them, "Someone is going to hand me over to the people who do not like me. These people will kill me, but after three days, I will come back to life."

The disciples didn't understand what Jesus was talking about. But they were too afraid to ask any questions.

They continued walking toward Capernaum. As they were walking, the disciples got into an argument. They were arguing about who was the best follower of Jesus. Once they arrived in Capernaum, they went inside a house. Jesus gathered the disciples together and asked them, "What were you arguing about on the road?" None of the disciples wanted to answer Jesus. But Jesus already knew what they had been talking about.

Jesus sat down and said to them, "If you want to be first, you must be the very last. You must be the servant of everyone." What did Jesus mean? How could someone be first and last at the same time? Jesus wanted His disciples to know how to become great. Jesus said they needed to be a **servant**. A servant does things for other people. They think about other people before themselves. When someone is being a servant to others, they put themselves last. Jesus was saying that this is the way for the disciples, and for us, to live. We need to think of other people first!

Then Jesus found a little child and held the child in His arms. He told the disciples that children were important. Many people did not think that children were important. Many people would be mean. They would not take care of children. Jesus wanted His disciples to see that it is important to treat children just like they would treat Him.

Jesus was teaching us the way to be great— to think of other people and help others. Jesus lived this way so that we could see how to think of other people first. Jesus was not a selfish person. Jesus showed us the best example of all when He died on the cross for all the bad things *we* do. He died because He wanted us to be with Him. Then three days later, He came to life so that we could go to be with Him in heaven. If you want to know more about how to be with Jesus, please talk with me.

## **Hands-on Activities for Who is the Greatest?**

Bring 1st place ribbons. When students let someone else go first or they share something, give them a ribbon. Explain that when we let someone else go first, we are first place in God's eyes!

Make an "I can be a servant" list and come up with ways they can help others. Try to come up with at least seven ideas so that they can have one for each day of the week.

Let the kids make their own stickers. Bring computer labels and decorate with markers. Say things that are encouraging. Ask each person to give some of their stickers to someone else!

Play a fun relay game. After the game is over, announce the winner—the last team that finished. When the other team complains, explain the lesson again and share what it means to help others first before helping yourselves.

Watch the 3-2-1 Penguins episode called "Trouble on Planet Wait-Your-Turn." It does a good job of showing what happens when everyone thinks they have to be first. Kids learn to let others go first sometimes.

**“If you want to be first, you must be the very last.”**

**Mark 9:35**

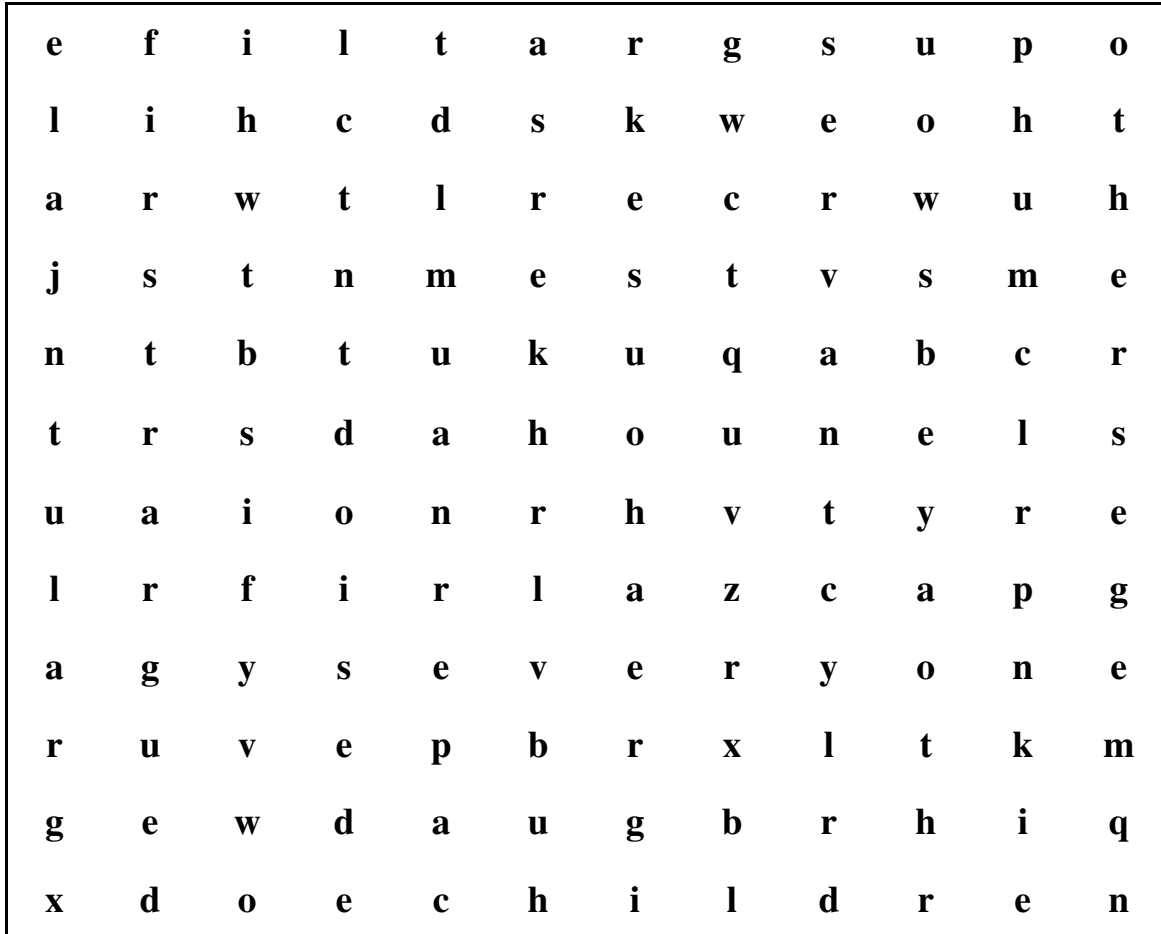


“If you want to be first, you must be the very last. You must be the servant of everyone.”  
Mark 9:35



# Word Search

## Who is the Greatest?

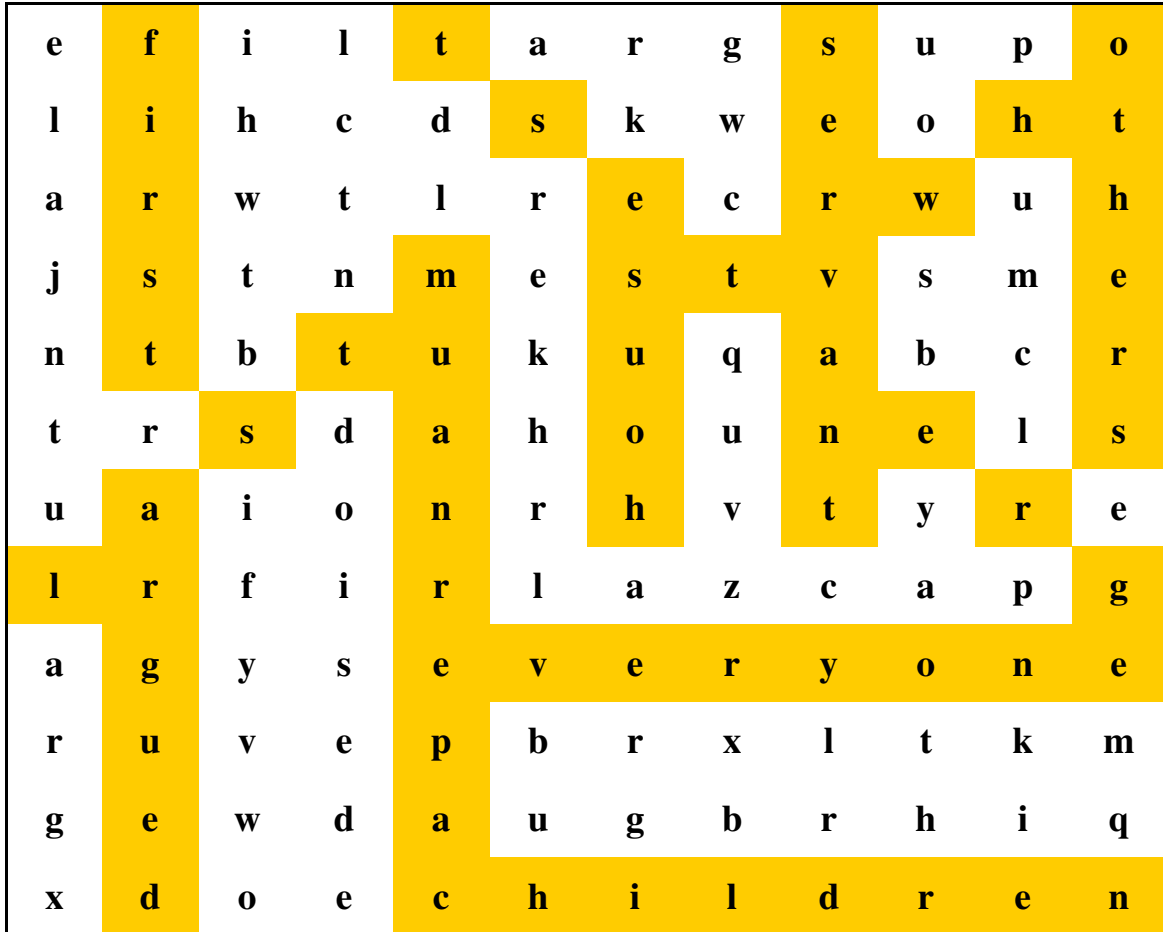


Capernaum	house	argued
greatest	who	first
last	servant	everyone
others	children	



# Word Search

## Who is the Greatest?



Capernaum	house	argued
greatest	who	first
last	servant	everyone
others	children	

Jesus told His disciples to  
be a

Servant

This means we should  
think about  
**others f\_\_rst**  
and  
**ourselves l\_\_st.**