

LIFE OF CHRIST
from the gospel of
Mark

LESSON 35

**JAMES AND JOHN'S
REQUEST**

MARK 10:32-45

Life of Christ

James and John's Request

Mark 10:32-45

Younger Verse

Whoever wants to be great must become a servant.

Mark 10:44

Older Verse

Whoever wants to be great must become a servant. . . That is what the Son of Man has done: He came to serve, not to be served—and then give away his life. Mark 10:44-45

Lesson Goals

Learn that James and John wanted to be important
Understand that God's kingdom is different than the world
Recognize that God wants us to be a servant

Opener

Do you like to feel important? We all like others to notice us and think we are special. But as James and John learned, the way to greatness in God's kingdom is different than what we might think.

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 a rich young man who came to Jesus. Jesus told the man to sell everything and give the money to those in need. But the rich man loved his money too much, and he went away from Jesus. We learned that we need to put Jesus first in our lives.

After He visited with the rich man, Jesus led the disciples toward Jerusalem. As they were walking, Jesus decided He wanted to talk with His disciples alone. He pulled them aside and told them something very important. He told them that in Jerusalem, He would be turned over to the people that did not like Him. They would make fun of Him, beat Him, and then kill Him. Yet three days later, He would come back to life.

After hearing this, James and John asked a question: "Teacher, we want you to do whatever we ask you to do for us."

Jesus asked them, "What is it that you want me to do?" James and John said, "We want to sit next to you in Heaven, one of us on your right and the other on your left." Jesus said to them, "You do not understand what you are asking. Can you go through all the things that I will suffer so that people can have a way to be with God in Heaven?"

They both answered, "Yes, we can."

Jesus knew that they did not fully understand everything that He would have to go through. He told them, "You will suffer through many things because you will tell people about me. But I cannot tell you who will sit in these places by me."

As they were talking, the other ten disciples found out what James and John had asked. They were upset with James and John.

Jesus called all the disciples together. He explained that the rulers of the world liked to show their power over the people. They wanted everyone to know how important they were. But Jesus said that in His kingdom, it would be different. The one who wants to be great must become a servant to everyone. Then Jesus said that is why He came—not to be served, but to serve others and to give His life to save everyone.

Jesus showed a perfect example of serving others. He never thought about Himself. He lived to serve and died to save us. Jesus wants us to be servants to others. That is how other people will know about God.

Jesus reminded His disciples about what He was going to do. He died on the cross and three days later, He came back to life. He did this so that we could be with Him forever. If we believe in our heart that He did this and ask Him to forgive us for all the wrong things we have done, then we will know that we get to spend forever with Him.

Review Questions

1. What did James and John ask Jesus? (They wanted to sit next to Him in Heaven, one on His right and the other on His left.)
2. How did Jesus answer this request? (He said that they did not know what they were asking, and that He could not tell them who would sit by Him in Heaven.)
3. Jesus said that to be great in His kingdom, we must be a what? (servant)

Prayer Time

Thank God for Jesus' example of leading through serving. Pray that we will have the same attitude that Christ had.

Life Application

What is the difference between being great and being a servant? Jesus wants us to think about others before we think about ourselves. He does not want us to boast or brag. Instead, He wants us to care for others and accept them. **Jesus showed us how to be a servant by His example.** Remember that He was in Heaven with God before He came to earth as a baby. Instead of being proud, He became a servant and helped others. Even more, Jesus substituted Himself on the cross to die for all our sins. We should care for others in the same way.

Planning for Lesson 36
Jesus Clears the Temple
Mark 11:12-19

Preschool Lesson for James and John's Request

Hey boys and girls! Today our story is about a question that two brothers asked Jesus. Jesus was with His disciples and they were on their way to Jerusalem. Jesus told His disciples that when they arrived in Jerusalem, He would die, but three days later, He would come back to life.

After hearing this, two of the disciples, James and John, asked Jesus a question. “Jesus, will you do whatever we ask you to do for us?” What do you think they asked Jesus to do for them?

“What do you want me to do for you?” Jesus asked.

“We want to sit next to you up in Heaven. One of us would sit on your right and the other would sit on your left,” they said.

Wow, they wanted to sit next to Jesus in Heaven. That would be pretty cool. Would you want to sit next to Jesus, too?

But Jesus knew why they were asking. They were being selfish and wanted to look important. Jesus asked them if they would be willing to go through a lot of hard times in order to sit there with Him.

They said they would be willing to face many things so that they could sit with Jesus. Jesus then told them that they would go through a lot of difficult things for Him. But it was not His choice as to who would sit in those seats.

The other disciples were upset at James and John because they had asked Jesus that question. Jesus called all of them together. Jesus said that in His kingdom, the one who wants to be great must become a servant to everyone. Then Jesus said that is why He came—not to be served, but to serve others and to give His life to save everyone.

Jesus showed a perfect example of serving others. He never thought about Himself. He lived to serve and died to save us. Jesus wants us to be servants to others. That is how other people will know about God.

Jesus reminded His disciples about what He was going to do. He died on the cross and three days later, He came back to life. He did this so that we could be with Him forever. If we believe in our heart that He did this and ask Him to forgive us for all the wrong things we have done, then we will know that we get to spend forever with Him.

Hands-on Activities for James and John's Request

Play “Follow the Leader.” But before someone can become the leader, they have to do an act of service for someone, like give someone a paper or pencil, hand out snacks, etc. Make sure to emphasize the servant’s job—to think of others first.

Think of ways that your class can serve where they live. Plan a time to pick up trash around the Bible Study, or do your “service project” after the lesson!

Servants think about the needs of others. Think of those the children know who might need to be encouraged—someone who is sick or having a hard time. Make cards to encourage others.

Have kids make coupons for their parents. They can say things like, “One free breakfast in bed,” or “One washing of dishes with no arguing”. They can be creative and think of ways to serve their parents and others.

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Mark 10:44**



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Word Search

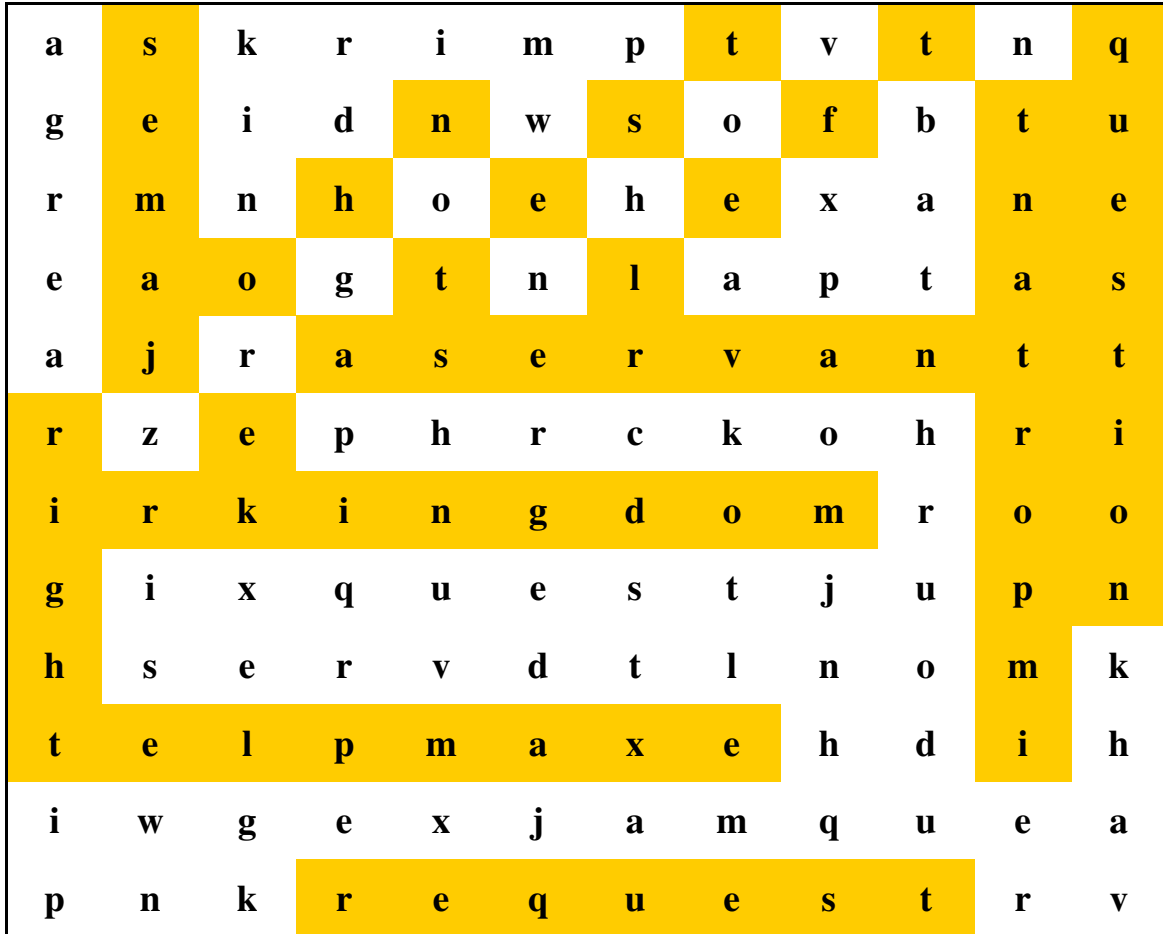
James and John's Request

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t	e	l	p	m	a	x	e	h	d	i	h
i	w	g	e	x	j	a	m	q	u	e	a
p	n	k	r	e	q	u	e	s	t	r	v

James	John	request
question	right	left
kingdom	example	greatest
servant	important	

Word Search

James and John's Request



James	John	request
question	right	left
kingdom	example	greatest
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The two disciples who asked Jesus a
question were

J__me__ and J__h__

Jesus said to be great we must be a

SERVANT

