

**MESSAGE BASED SMALL GROUP HOMEWORK**

**GETTING TO KNOW ME:**

How were children looked upon or valued in the family you grew up in? (highly valued & included in decisions/conversation, seen but not heard, kids ran the house, etc...)

**DIG DEEPER:**

**1 - Read Mark 9:30-50 carefully in at least 2 different Bible translations to gain a more thorough understanding of the passage** (a few good translations: NIV, NLT, NASB, The Message. All of these & more avail. at [www.biblegateway.com](http://www.biblegateway.com))

Right after Jesus confides in his disciples that he is going to be crucified, the disciples begin arguing among themselves about who is going to be the “greatest” among them. Jesus uses this as a “teaching moment” – and He uses a small child to help Him make his point.

To be sure we fully understand this lesson – let’s explore it slowly (verse by verse) to be sure we digest the entirety of what Jesus was trying to communicate here.

**a. Verses 36&37**

What exactly do you think Jesus is trying to say to them by encouraging them to embrace a little child in his name? How does this lesson with the child relate to the disciples’ conversation about being the “greatest?”

**b. Verse 38**

How does John’s response (immediately after the lesson of the child) strike you? What do you think this response says about John’s heart? What was John so concerned about here?

**c. Verses 39-41**

How does Jesus' response to John strike you? Are you surprised that Jesus doesn't seem to care that these "other people" are using his name to perform miracles? What do you think he's trying to say here?

**d. Verse 42**

Here – Jesus reveals what he is passionate about and what he wants John to really spend his energy worrying about – "these little ones," the child. Paraphrase the heart of what Jesus is trying to say to John here.

**e. Verses 43-50**

Jesus ends this teaching segment with some very strong words to his disciples. Why do you think Jesus closes his teaching in this way? What is the core of what He's trying to communicate in these verses? And how does this relate back to the disciples' argument about "being the greatest?"

**APPLICATION**

2 – Do you see any part of yourself do you see in the disciples as they argued about being "the greatest?" Or do you see yourself in Johns' question (verse 38)?

3 – Summarize in ONE sentence the lesson Jesus was trying to teach his disciples using the child? Can you think of one practical way that you can apply this lesson that in your own life this week? What can you do at home, at work, at church, in your community...?

## VERSES, QUOTATIONS & KEY POINTS FROM THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE:

Mark 9:30-32 (NLT)

<sup>30</sup> Leaving that region, they traveled through Galilee. Jesus didn't want anyone to know he was there, <sup>31</sup> for he wanted to spend more time with his disciples and teach them. He said to them, "The Son of Man is going to be betrayed into the hands of his enemies. He will be killed, but three days later he will rise from the dead." <sup>32</sup> They didn't understand what he was saying, however, and they were afraid to ask him what he meant.

### 1. It's possible to follow Christ and miss the cross.

Colossians 1:19-20 (NLT)

<sup>19</sup> For God in all his fullness  
was pleased to live in Christ,  
<sup>20</sup> and through him God reconciled  
everything to himself.

He made peace with everything in heaven and on earth  
by means of Christ's blood on the cross.

Mark 9:33-35 (NLT)

<sup>33</sup> After they arrived at Capernaum and settled in a house, Jesus asked his disciples, "What were you discussing out on the road?" <sup>34</sup> But they didn't answer, because they had been arguing about which of them was the greatest. <sup>35</sup> He sat down, called the twelve disciples over to him, and said, "Whoever wants to be first must take last place and be the servant of everyone else."

Luke 14:7-11 (NLT)

<sup>7</sup> When Jesus noticed that all who had come to the dinner were trying to sit in the seats of honor near the head of the table, he gave them this advice: <sup>8</sup> "When you are invited to a wedding feast, don't sit in the seat of honor. What if someone who is more distinguished than you has also been invited? <sup>9</sup> The host will come and say, 'Give this person your seat.' Then you will be embarrassed, and you will have to take whatever seat is left at the foot of the table! <sup>10</sup> "Instead, take the lowest place at the foot of the table. Then when your host sees you, he will come and say, 'Friend, we have a better place for you!' Then you will be honored in front of all the other guests. <sup>11</sup> For those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."

Luke 14:11 (NLT)

<sup>11</sup> For those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."

Mark 9:35 (NLT)

<sup>35</sup> ... "Whoever wants to be first must take last place and be the servant of everyone else."

### 2. A servant-like attitude puts a smile on God's face.

Mark 9:36-37 (NLT)

<sup>36</sup> Then he put a little child among them. Taking the child in his arms, he said to them, <sup>37</sup> "Anyone who welcomes a little child like this on my behalf welcomes me, and anyone who welcomes me welcomes not only me but also my Father who sent me."

### 3. Heaven is full of people who acted like a child!

Matthew 18:1-4 (NLT)

<sup>1</sup> About that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, “Who is greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven?” <sup>2</sup> Jesus called a little child to him and put the child among them. <sup>3</sup> Then he said, “I tell you the truth, unless you turn from your sins and become like little children, you will never get into the Kingdom of Heaven. <sup>4</sup> So anyone who becomes as humble as this little child is the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven.