

Lesson Plans that Work
Year B – Season after Pentecost, Proper 24
Lesson Plans for Older Children

Scripture: Mark 10:35-45

Background: During the last weeks of Ordinary Time in Lectionary Cycle B, the Gospel of Mark, our primary guide, continues. The kingdom of God is open for all people. We hear this message in the readings about the rich man, the disciples jockeying for position, the blind man, the saints, the poor widow, and even Pilate as he queries Jesus about being a king. We don't have to pass an entrance exam; we are already in the kingdom. Through all the changes that occur in our lives, what will not change is God's love for each of us. The kingdom that Jesus is proclaiming is already here and yet is also still to come – the undercurrent of Advent, which is coming near.

A Notation for This Week's Gospel

How in the world will we find our place, our position, our status, if we are already "in"? What if there is no top spot – no seat of honor? What if we do not have to compete for a place at the table – the place is already set, the dinner served, the wine poured? The disciples have been scrambling for position. Jesus tells them that the sign of being "in" is not about being served but in looking for whom to serve.

Theme: Servanthood

Before Class: You will need Bibles or copies of the scripture/script that is found below, paper and pens, art materials for the “How I Serve” response time.

Check out where the children in your class are being invited to serve in your church (acolytes, choir, ushers, etc.) And if they are not currently invited, is it a possibility in your church? Where else do they "serve" – for example as Scouts or a similar organization. Does your community sponsor "walks" for charity that may have included the children?

Beginning: Ask each child to take a piece of paper and write down the name of the person he/she thinks would win a contest on the internet that was called “Who is the Greatest?” Give them the time they need. If they are not thinking of someone, ask who gets the most attention on TV? Collect the pieces of paper, mix them up and pass them out so each child gets an answer that he or she did not write. Ask the children to read the name on their piece of paper. Decide – by vote if necessary – who this class thinks would win. Then, if time permits, ask them who THEY would name as the greatest person alive today.

Opening Prayer: Thank you for the "great" people you place in our lives. Help us to learn from them and from one another. Amen.

The Story: Mark 10:35-45. Ask for volunteers to read the passage, you will need the narrator, the disciples, and Jesus.

Reflection Questions:

- I wonder what the disciples were arguing about? ("Jesus needs me most because I," etc.)
- What does Jesus say that at first does not look like a real answer to their argument? (He talks about first being last, again and about serving.)
- In Jesus' day, most people had "servants" in their houses who cooked their food and set the table. Do any of us have servants in our houses? (Probably not.)
- I wonder what Jesus might be saying to us about being "servants?" Who do we help? How do we help? (Yes, chores around our house, but what do we contribute to our church? Our community?)

Serve: The children might consider an additional way they could "serve" in our church or in our community. Could they help spruce up the area around the church – picking up trash, raking leaves, etc.?

What other things could our class offer to do? And, in addition to doing chores, what other ways can we "serve" our church or community? (Hospitality or nursing home visits)

What are things they could do at home or school to serve others?

How I Serve: Invite the children to draw, color, paint, or write about the ways in which they serve others.

Getting Closure: Invite the children to share their "How I Serve" art. If the children have chosen a service project, be sure someone is in charge of finding out who they need to check with and when it can be done.

Closing Prayer: Thank you, God for showing us you need our help in doing the work that needs to be done. Be with us as we go into the world to serve and do work. Amen.

Mark 10:35-45

Narrator: James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came forward to Jesus and said to him,

Disciples: ‘Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you.’

Jesus: ‘What is it you want me to do for you?’

Disciples: ‘Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory.’

Jesus: You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?’

Disciples: ‘We are able.’

Narrator: Then Jesus said to them,

Jesus: ‘The cup that I drink you will drink; and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized; ⁴but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared.’

Narrator: When the ten heard this, they began to be angry with James and John. So Jesus called them and said to them,

Jesus: ‘You know that among the Gentiles those whom they recognize as their rulers lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. But it is not so among you; but whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all. For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many.’

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