

Family Devotional

From March 5, 2017

Talk about it: Think about a servant. How would you describe a servant to someone that had never heard of a servant before? What type of jobs do they normally do?

Now think about a king. How would you describe a king? What is their role in a community?

Would you say a servant and king are synonyms, words that have the same meanings, or antonyms, words that have opposite meanings? Let's see what the Bible has to say.

Read: Mark 9:30-37

Reflect:

- What do you think Jesus was referring to in verse 31?
- His friends hadn't heard the Easter story so they weren't sure what he meant. Why didn't they ask Jesus what he meant? Do you think they should have asked him?
- Why do you think they kept silent when Jesus asked them what they were talking about?
- Did Jesus need them to answer or did he already know?
- What do you think Jesus meant when he said, "Anyone who wants to be first must be the very last, and the servant of all."?
- Is that the way humans normally think, that if we want to be considered great we should put others' needs first and do everything we can to help them?
- Can you think of some stories where Jesus was an example of what it looks like to be a servant?
- What are some ways Jesus is calling you to serve others?

One really interesting thing about being a servant, especially when serving someone like Jesus, is getting to be on the frontlines; seeing and doing really cool things for the glory of God! (See Luke 15:22-27 and John 2 for examples). When we put the needs of others first, we get a little glimpse through the eyes of Jesus. By showing that same love and compassion to others, we get to experience firsthand the love and compassion He has for us.

Living as a servant means that we are close to our master, Jesus. He wants us to be involved in His work and to ask Him questions! We do not need to be afraid like the disciples were. Sometimes He will tell us the answer right away, other times he will point us in the right direction to discover the answer, and other times He wants us to watch and wait patiently as He shows us the answer by serving others.

Jesus is the ultimate Servant King, leading by example and not doing things to bring glory to Himself, but to the Father. We are called to be servants to the King, in the same way, not to elevate our own position, but to point others to Jesus which is the greatest thing of all!!

Remember: Work together as a family to memorize/meditate on Mark 9:35b this week.

"Anyone who wants to be first must be the very last, and the servant of all."

Ideas: Write this passage down and hang it on the refrigerator. Say it together as a family during meal time each day. Write it on a chalk or white board and erase a couple of words each day until you can say it by memory.

Respond: "Dear Jesus, thank you for showing us what it looks like to serve others! Help us remember we are your servants, working with you and getting to see the amazing things you are doing in us and through us. Help us to listen to your instructions and be quick to obey!.....Amen."