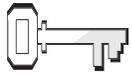


First Things Last



References

Matthew 20:20-28;
Mark 10:35-45; *The
Desire of Ages*,
pp. 435-437, 548-551



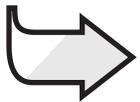
Memory Verse

“Whoever wants to
become great among
you must be your
servant” (Mark 10:43, NIV).



Objectives

The children will:
Know that they are
putting others first
when they serve them.
Feel a need of God’s
help to put others first.
Respond by letting
God change their attitude
so they will put others first.



The Message

Jesus wants me to
put others first.

Monthly Theme

Jesus calls us to serve others.

The Bible Lesson at a Glance

Jesus’ disciples, James and John, desire to have good positions in Jesus’ kingdom. Their mother asks Jesus to place James and John at His right and left in His kingdom. The other disciples are angry about this. Jesus calls the disciples together and reminds them that whoever wants to become great in His kingdom must be a servant.

This is a lesson about service.

Seeking to be first or to have position and power is not compatible with the true greatness of unselfish service. Jesus is the prime example of true service and of living for others.

Teacher Enrichment

“John, the son of Zebedee, had been one of the first two disciples who had followed Jesus. He and his brother James had been among the first group who had left all for His service. . . . At every possible opportunity, John took his place next the Saviour, and James longed to be honored with as close connection with Him.

“Their mother was a follower of Christ, and had ministered to Him freely of her substance. With a mother’s love and ambition for her sons, she coveted for them the most honored place in the new kingdom. For this she encouraged them to make request.

“Together the mother and her sons came to Jesus, asking that He would grant a petition on which their hearts were set. . . .

“When the ten heard of the request of James and John, they were much displeased. The highest place in the kingdom was just what every one of them was seeking for himself, and they were angry that the two disciples had gained a seeming advantage over them. . . .

“Christ was establishing a kingdom on different principles. He called men, not to authority, but to service, the strong to bear the infirmities of the weak” (*The Desire of Ages*, pp. 548-550).

“John and James were to share with their Master in suffering; the one, first of the brethren to perish with the sword; the other, longest of all to endure toil, and reproach, and persecution. . . .

“Long afterward, when the disciple had been brought into sympathy with Christ through the fellowship of His sufferings, the Lord revealed to John what is the condition of nearness in His kingdom. ‘To him that overcometh,’ Christ said, ‘will I grant to sit with Me in My throne’ ” (ibid, p. 549).

Room Decorations

See Lesson 1.

Program Overview

Lesson Section	Minutes	Activities	Materials Needed
Welcome	ongoing	Greet students at door; hear pleased/troubled	none
1 Readiness Options	up to 10	A. <i>In Line</i> B. <i>Money for Someone</i> <i>Else</i>	Bibles paper play money, Bibles
Any Time Prayer and Praise*	up to 10	Fellowship Songbooks Mission Offering Prayer	none <i>Sing for Joy, He Is Our Song</i> <i>Children's Mission</i> container used last week <i>Sing for Joy</i> songbook
2 Bible Lesson	up to 20	Experiencing the Story Memory Verse Bible Study	none paper cups with the memory verse on the outside, marker, water, tray, small dish towel Bibles
3 Applying the Lesson	up to 15	<i>Others First</i>	paper, pencils, markers, crayons
4 Sharing the Lesson	up to 15	<i>First Place Certificate</i>	copy of "First Place Certificate" for each child (see p. 140)

***Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program.**

TEACHING THE LESSON

Welcome

Welcome students at the door. Ask how their week has been—what they are pleased/troubled about. Encourage them to share any experiences from last week's lesson study. Have them begin the Readiness Activity of your choice.



Readiness Activities

Select the activity most appropriate for your situation.

You Need:

- Bibles

A. In Line

Have all the children stand at the far end of the Sabbath School room, or do this activity outside. Tell them that when you count to three, they are to run up to you and form a line in front of you. Do this at least twice.

Debriefing

Ask: **How important was it to you to stand first in the line?** (didn't matter; I like being first, etc.) **How did it feel to be last in line?** (I didn't like it; I didn't care, etc.) **How many of you invited one of your classmates to stand in front of you in the line?** (Ask for a show of hands.) **Is putting others first natural for us?** (It is not natural, but Jesus helps us choose to do it.) **Let's find and read Mark 10:43.** Read aloud. **Our lesson today is about putting others first. Our message says it this way:**



JESUS WANTS ME TO PUT OTHERS FIRST.

Say that with me.

You Need:

- paper play money
- Bibles

B. Money for Someone Else

Give each child three pieces of paper play money. Say: **Each of you has the same amount of money. You have to give it all away, one piece at a time. If someone offers you money, you cannot refuse it. If you give some money to someone, they cannot give you any until they have given some to someone else.** Few children will succeed in giving all their money away. Allow three or four minutes, then stop the activity.

Debriefing

Ask: **What was it like to give your money away?** (easy, hard, frustrating, etc.) **How would you feel if it was real money? Would it be easier or harder to give it away? Why?** Allow time for discussion. **Is it easy to put others first and give them good things?** (sometimes, not always) **In today's lesson we will learn more about this. Let's find and read Mark 10:43.** Read aloud. **Today's message says it like this:**



JESUS WANTS ME TO PUT OTHERS FIRST.

Say that with me.

Prayer and Praise

Any
Time



Fellowship

Report the students' joys and sorrows (pleased and troubled) as reported to you at the door (as appropriate). Allow time for sharing experiences from last week's lesson study, and review the memory verse. Acknowledge any birthdays, special events, or achievements. Give a special warm greeting to all visitors.



Suggested Songs

"Seek Ye First" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 67)

"We Are His Hands" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 129)

"Jesus Bids Us Shine" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 133)

"Pass It On" (*He Is Our Song*, no. 130)—theme song for the month with these words:

It only takes a spark to get a kind act going,
And soon all those around can warm up in its glowing;
For Jesus made the golden rule; once I experience it,
I will be kind to everyone; I want to pass it on.



Mission

Use a story from *Children's Mission*.



Offering

Say: **We give offerings to serve others and meet their needs.**

You Need:

- container used last week



Prayer

Ask the children for prayer requests. Then ask them to think of and pray silently for someone whom they personally can put first and help this week. End the prayer by singing "We Are His Hands" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 129).

Bible Lesson

Experiencing the Story

When you say: **one** **They do:** point upward

Read or tell the story.

The brothers James and John were two of Jesus' disciples who had been with Jesus from the beginning. Let's imagine what they may have said to each other.

"What a kingdom Jesus is going to have!" exclaimed James. "It will be richer than any kingdom that has ever been!"

"I am glad that I have been with Jesus since the very beginning. We will be an important part of the new kingdom," responded John.

"Yes," said James. "**One** [Point up.] of us will sit at Jesus' right hand in the new kingdom, and the other will sit at the left."

"Do you really think so?" questioned John. "Peter thinks he will be number **one**. [Point up.] If we are going to be number **one**, [Point up.] we need to talk to Jesus, and make sure."

John thought about Jesus and how humble He was. "But will Jesus be happy listening to us talk about being number **one**?" [Point up.]

James answered, "John, we need to ask about having the number **one** [Point up.] place before others do. We want to be near Him so we can do things His way. We need to ask. I know, let's get our mother to ask!"

So the mother of James and John approached Jesus. "Jesus, will You do us **one** [Point up.] favor?" she asked, smiling.

Jesus looked at her kindly and said, "What can I do for you?"

She replied. "In Your kingdom, please

let **one** [Point up.] of my sons sit at Your right side and **one** [Point up.] sit at Your left side."

Jesus' face became sad. He turned to James and John. "You don't really know what you are asking. Are you able to face the trouble and the pain that I must face?"

Eagerly, James and John answered, "Oh, yes, Lord, we can face Your troubles and feel Your pain."

Jesus replied, **one** [Point up.] thing is right. You will face My problems and deal with My pain. But I am not the **one** [Point up.] to give out positions in God's kingdom. My Father has a plan for each **one** [Point up.] of you. He is the **one** [Point up.] who will decide about positions in the kingdom."

When the other disciples heard James and John asking to be number **one** [Point up.], they were angry.

Jesus moved to a quiet place and called all the disciples to Him. "Think about the people who don't know about God," He said. "Those people have kings who order them around every day. People are beaten down and forced to obey.

"But My kingdom is not like that. I came to serve others. My people must serve others. The greatest **one** [Point up.] of you is the **one** [Point up.] who will be a servant. I came to give My life for all people. That is how My kingdom works."

Jesus' kingdom still works like that. He asks everyone in His kingdom to put others first—to make them number **one**. [Point up.]

Debriefing

Ask: **What kind of kingdom did the disciples think Jesus was going to set up?** (a kingdom on this earth; a powerful, rich kingdom)

What did James and John's mother ask of Jesus?

Why did Jesus reject James and John's request? What was wrong with the request? (Their request was selfish.)

Jesus taught His disciples that in His kingdom people are not selfish. He still wants us to do that today. Let's remember our message:



JESUS WANTS ME TO PUT OTHERS FIRST.

Memory Verse

In advance, prepare a paper cup for each child with the memory verse written or attached.

"Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant" (Mark 10:43, NIV).

You Need:

- paper cups
- marker or pen
- water
- tray
- small dish towel

Place the cups of water on a tray. Appoint a "servant" from your class to serve the other students a cup of water. Drape a folded dish towel over their arm.

When everyone is served, ask the children to read in unison the memory verse attached to their cups. (Adults assist as needed.) Call for volunteers to read the verse aloud. After several have done so, have the class say the verse together.

Bible Study

Characters: James, John, their mother, Jesus, other disciples

Have the designated characters act out today's Bible story as they read the Bible reference in Matthew 20:20-28. (See box below.)

Debriefing

Ask: **What part of this story do you like best, and why?** (Wait for responses.)

What did James and John not understand? (The need to put others first.) **How did the other disciples show that they did not understand it either?** (They were angry at James and John.)

What did you learn from this story? (That Jesus wants me to put others first.) **Let's say today's message again:**



JESUS WANTS ME TO PUT OTHERS FIRST.

(Note to teacher: Mark 10:35 does not say that James and John's mother made the request. But when the accounts in Matthew and Mark are taken together, it shows that mother and sons were in agreement.)

You Need:

- Bibles

Have the following characters read the verses in order.

Mother	Jesus	James and John	Other Disciples
verse 20	verse 21a	verse 22b	verse 24
verse 21b	verse 22a		
	verse 23		
	verses 25-28		

3

Applying the Lesson

You Need:

- paper
- pencils, markers, crayons

Others First

Give each child a piece of paper and a pencil. Divide them into three groups with an adult helper in each group.

Group 1: Have the children draw a picture of their family members and then list ways (using words or pictures) they can put them first during the week.

Group 2: Have the children draw pictures of their friends and then list ways (using words or drawing pictures) they can put them first during the week.

Group 3: Have the children draw pictures of nature and then list ways (using

words or drawing pictures) they can put others first during the week by caring for the environment.

When all three groups are finished, give each time to share with everyone.

Debriefing

Say: **Every day life gives you many chances to put others before yourself. What do you think about putting others first?** (want to; feels good; sometimes don't like to)

Who will help you put others first, even if you don't feel like it? (Jesus—read Philippians 4:13 together.) **Let's say our message again:**



JESUS WANTS ME TO PUT OTHERS FIRST.

4

Sharing the Lesson

First Place Certificate

Give each child a copy of the “First Place Certificate.” (See page 140.) Have them decorate it and complete it.

After choosing a person and writing that person’s name on the name line, have them write or draw under the words “Your prize will be” what they will do this week to put that person first. For example: wash dishes for Mom before going out to play; help Dad with yard work before playing ball; help teacher clean the classroom, etc.

They can use some ideas from the “Applying the Lesson” activity they just did.

The children are to deliver the certificate and make arrangements to do the service this week.

Debriefing

Say: **Plan to deliver the certificate**

and do what is written as soon as possible.

Ask: **How can putting others first make your home and the world a better place to live?** (There is less fighting, less selfishness; it is happier, more fun, etc.)

How can we get God’s help this week to help us remember to put others first? (by praying and studying the Bible) **Why will you pray for help to put others first? Because . . .**



JESUS WANTS ME TO PUT OTHERS FIRST.

Closing

Ask a volunteer to pray that the children will want to put others first every day. Then sing the “Pass It On” theme song (*He Is Our Song*, No. 130) using the words in the Prayer and Praise section.

Remind the children to use their Bible Study Guides every day and to do the daily activities.

You Need:

- copy of “First Place Certificate” for each child (see p. 140)

First Things Last

References

Matthew 20:20-28;
Mark 10:35-45;
The Desire of Ages,
pp. 435-437,
548-551

Memory Verse

“Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant” (Mark 10:43, NIV).

The Message

Jesus wants me to put others first.

Think of a time when you wanted to be first. Were you in line, or playing a game? What does the Bible say about trying to be number one?

James and John were two of Jesus’ disciples. They had been with Jesus from the beginning, and they wanted to be His favorite helpers. Imagine that they are talking with each other about this.

“What a kingdom Jesus is going to have!” exclaimed James. “It will be richer than any kingdom that has ever been!”

“It will be great because Jesus is fair,” said John. “I am glad that I have been with Jesus since the very first. We will be an important part of the new kingdom.”

“That’s right,” said James. “You will sit at Jesus’ right hand in the new kingdom, and I will sit at the left.”

“Do you really think so?” questioned John. “Peter thinks he will be number

one, not to mention Judas and Simon the Zealot. If we want to be first, we need to talk to Jesus and make sure.”

John thought about Jesus and how humble He was. “But will Jesus be happy listening to us talk about being first?”

James spoke. “We need to ask about first place before some others do. We want to be near Him so we can do things His way. I know, let’s get Mother to ask Him.”

It was not long before their mother arrived and they told her of their plan. She went to Jesus and smiled. “Will You do something for me?”

Jesus looked at her kindly. “What would you like Me to do?” He asked.

“In Your kingdom, let my sons be on Your right side and Your left side,” she said. “They will do the things You want.”

Jesus’ face became sad. He turned to James and John. “Are you able to face the trouble and the pain that I must face?”

Eagerly, James and John answered, “Oh, yes, Lord, we can face Your troubles.”

Jesus replied. “Yes, you will face My problems and deal with My pain. But I must tell you, that it is not My job to give out positions in God’s kingdom.

My Father has a plan for each of you. He is the One who will decide about positions in the kingdom.”

There was a sputter from behind Jesus. The other disciples were angry! Each one wanted to be the most important person in Jesus’ kingdom. Why should young John be ahead of them? They all wanted to be first.

Jesus moved to a quiet place and called all the disciples to Him. “Think about the people who don’t know about God,” He said. “Those people have kings who order people around every day. People are beaten down and forced to obey.



"But My kingdom is not like that. I came to serve others. My people must serve others. To be a leader in My kingdom, you must first learn how to serve. That is how My kingdom works."

Jesus' kingdom is still like that. He asks everyone in His kingdom to be unselfish. He wants us to put others first.

Daily Activities

Sabbath

- If possible, have lunch outside with your family. Help serve family members and guests. Read about being a servant in Mark 10:43.
- After dinner, read your Bible lesson story together.
- Sing "Love at Home" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 137). Plan to put your family members first this week. Ask Jesus to help you.

Sunday

- During family worship read and discuss Matthew 20:20, 21. Who were Zebedee's sons? (Read Mark 10:35.) Write their names here. _____ and _____. How many others boys' names can you think of that begin with J?
- On paper, make one large outline of the number 1 for each word of the memory verse. Cut them out. Write one word of your memory verse on each. Write the Scripture reference on the last cutout. Mix up the words, then arrange them in the proper order.

Monday

- With your family discuss the request that James and John's mother made. What do you think about it? What did Jesus think about it? Read and discuss Matthew 20:22, 23.
- If you made a "First Place Certificate" in Sabbath School, deliver it today. If not, make one and give it to someone. Explain that you will do something to help them today.
- Arrange your memory verse cutouts and say the verse.
- Sing "Make Me a Servant" (*He Is Our Song*, No. 126), then pray that God will help you to be a servant to others.

Tuesday

- With your family, read and discuss Matthew 20:24. Think about the ten disciples. Draw what

their faces would have looked like when they heard James and John's request.

- Have you ever acted as James and John did?
- Arrange your memory verse cutouts and say the verse. Then pray that you will be God's servant today and every day.

Wednesday

- Read and discuss Matthew 20:25, 26 for family worship.
- Think of a Bible story different from your lesson that is about putting others first. Tell it to your family.
- God wants people to serve and put each other first. Think of animals that serve people. Write one here. _____ Tell your family about it.
- From memory, arrange your memory verse cutouts in the proper order.

Thursday

- During family worship, read and discuss Matthew 20:27, 28. Whom should you put first—yourself or others? Why?
- Say your memory verse without help, then pray that God will help you and your family to be unselfish, to always put others first.

Friday

- Act out your Bible lesson story with your family. Then say your memory verse together.
- Share with your family an experience from this week of putting others first. Tell how it felt to put others ahead of yourself. Ask them to share too.
- Read and discuss Galatians 5:13 together.
- Sing together "Pass It On" (*He Is Our Song*, No. 130) with the following words:
It only takes a spark to get a kind act going, /
And soon all those around can warm up in its glowing; /
For Jesus made the golden rule; once I experience it, /
I will be kind to everyone; / I want to pass it on.