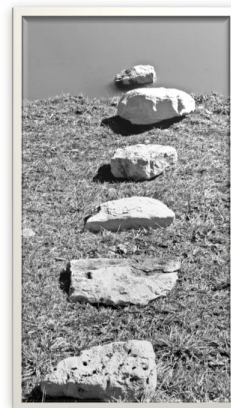


Take The Next Step

Mark 9-10



"Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant..." Mark 10:43 NIV

"It's not going to be that way with you. Whoever wants to be great must become a servant." Mark 10:43 The Message

Truth to Stand On

Jesus turns things upside down by showing us that greatness comes in serving and reward comes from sacrifice.

Opening Prayer

Dear God, Give us servant hearts that desire to bring you glory. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Getting in Step With Your Group

Introduce yourselves if there are any new group members. Think of a person (living or dead, famous or not) who you think embodies a servant attitude.

Step by Step Through Mark 9-10

Jesus reveals His glory as God, but then confuses His disciples by telling them His path to glory will include suffering and death. Read through Mark 9-10 together, noting these steps along the way:

- Step 1: Jesus reveals His full glory as God – Mark 9:2-13
- Step 2: Jesus shows there are no limits for those who believe – Mark 9:14-29
- Step 3: Jesus teaches that the path to glory is servanthood – Mark 9:30-35
- Step 4: The greatness of the smallest good deed done in Christ's name vs. the severity of the smallest sin – Mark 9:36-50
- Step 5: Jesus turns things upside down by...
 - ...upholding marriage and condemning divorce – Mark 10:1-12
 - ...setting up a child as an example for adults – Mark 10:13-15
 - ...valuing treasure in heaven over earthly wealth – Mark 10:17-31
- Step 6: Jesus will live what He teaches; greatness will come in sacrifice – Mark 10:32-45
- Step 7: A blind man shows the power of faith in Jesus – Mark 10:46-52

How is Jesus' glory described at the beginning of chapter 9? Who appears with Jesus on the mountain? (9:4) What do these men represent? Who is the voice from the cloud and what does He say? (9:7)

Why is Jesus exasperated in 9:19? What amazing statement does Jesus make in 9:23? What does the father of the demon possessed boy say in response to this statement?

What does Jesus mean in 9:43-48? What message is He trying to get across?

In Deuteronomy 24:1, Moses permits a man to divorce his wife if she "becomes displeasing to him." What does Jesus say about this? (10:5-12) What grounds for divorce does Jesus give in Matthew 5:31-32?

What does it mean to receive the kingdom of God like a little child? (10:15)

Mark 10:21 says that Jesus looked at the rich young man and loved him. How did Jesus show “tough love” toward this man? What does Jesus say about the rich in relation to the kingdom of God? What does He mean by this?

In both of these chapters, Jesus teaches about greatness. What is His message in 9:35 and 10:42-45? How is He about to live this message in a most vivid way?

Stepping into Our World

Turn your thinking “upside down” and bring it in line with Jesus by answering the questions below in your group as time permits:

- Where have you seen Jesus’ glory? When have you wanted to stay on the mountain? In what situation is God telling you to listen to Jesus?
- In Mark 9:23 in *The Message*, Jesus says, “If? There are no “ifs” among believers. Anything can happen.” Do you believe that all things are possible with God? In what situation do you need to echo the father’s prayer in Mark 9:24?
- Is there a circumstance where you would really like to get ahead? How can you turn this upside down into an opportunity to serve?
- What things in your life could you “cut off” in the interest of removing sin?
- How is our culture’s view of marriage different from Jesus’ teaching? How can you uphold marriage in your own life and in the lives of others?
- Are there any earthly treasures that you would be reluctant to give up for Jesus? How can you offer these to His service?
- Share how you have received back from giving to Jesus.
- What is the world’s definition of greatness? What is your definition? What is Jesus’ definition? Where can you be a great servant this week?
- Jesus asked blind Bartimaeus, “What do you want me to do for you?” How would you answer this question?

Taking the Next Step

Take today’s study of Mark 9-10 into the week ahead by choosing one of the following challenges:

- Spend some time with a child this week. Share love with them in the name of Jesus, and learn from them what it means to have childlike faith.
- If you are doubting God’s power in some area of your life, pray the prayer of the father from Mark 9:24: “I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!”
- Cut something out this week that is interfering with your relationship with God.
- Offer a “cup of water” to someone in Jesus’ name – do one simple act of service to refresh someone around you.
- Think about a situation where you crave recognition, advancement, or reward. Find a way to turn this situation into an opportunity to serve.

Closing Prayer

Give group members an opportunity to share prayer requests for the coming week.