

# Lesson 4 – Who’s the Greatest?

October 6, 2019

Worship: 10 minutes

**DVD: Sing & Play Kingdom Rock**

<b>Track 2</b>	<b>Let’s Get A Little Crazy</b>
<b>Track 10</b>	<b>Stand Strong</b>

Points to consider as you think about how to teach this lesson:

- Jesus added details to his prediction of his coming death.
- James and John got their mother’s help to ask Jesus for a special favor, setting aside all the teaching he’d done about last being first, etc.
- Jesus referred to his predicted crucifixion and James and John claimed they were equally able to endure whatever Jesus goes through!
- Jesus’ teachable moment: Greatness comes through servanthood.
- Ransom (verse 28) might be an unfamiliar word to younger children. Make sure they know what it means.

STORY TEACHER:

**Luke 17:11-19**

Jesus Foretells His Death a Third Time

<sup>17</sup> And as Jesus was going up to Jerusalem, he took the twelve disciples aside, and on the way he said to them, <sup>18</sup> “See, we are going up to Jerusalem. And the Son of Man will be delivered over to the chief priests and scribes, and they will condemn him to death <sup>19</sup> and deliver him over to the Gentiles to be mocked and flogged and crucified, and he will be raised on the third day.”

A Mother's Request

<sup>20</sup> Then the mother of the sons of Zebedee came up to him with her sons, and kneeling before him she asked him for something. <sup>21</sup> And he said to her, “What do you want?” She said to him, “Say that these two sons of mine are to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your

kingdom.”<sup>22</sup> Jesus answered, “You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I am to drink?” They said to him, “We are able.”<sup>23</sup> He said to them, “You will drink my cup, but to sit at my right hand and at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared by my Father.”<sup>24</sup> And when the ten heard it, they were indignant at the two brothers.<sup>25</sup> But Jesus called them to him and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them.<sup>26</sup> It shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant,<sup>27</sup> and whoever would be first among you must be your slave,<sup>28</sup> even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

### Lessons that can be drawn from this story:

- It’s not about us – it’s about Jesus. James and John’s mother was trying to put her sons in special positions, but it isn’t to get attention that we serve Jesus. We serve Him because He is GOD and because He loved us first and...
- The disciples were just ordinary people, like us. They wanted to be first. They wanted attention. Their mamas loved them. But Jesus was going to die for them, and that was WAY beyond ordinary!
- Jesus came to save us, but he’s also our example. He served us by dying for us, but He wants his kids to do what He did. He wants us to serve others.
- The way Jesus served us was to die for us.
- The greatest people are those who serve others.

# Small Group Lesson

*Small Group Teachers pick and choose activities:*

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

**See attached handout with James and John Facts. (James and John handout)**

Copies can be made, one for each student – all ages.

### *Questions for older children*

1. What would you think if Jesus told you he was going to die on a cross?
2. How did the disciples react to his prediction? *They didn't. they just thought about their places in the coming kingdom. It's like they didn't even hear him.*
3. Why do you think James and John got their mother involved? *They assumed Jesus wouldn't deny her request.*
4. What did Jesus mean by "drink the cup that I am to drink"? *To be crucified too – or suffer in some way like that.*
5. What do you think about James' and John claiming that they could "drink the cup"? Do you sometimes think you can do things and have one of your parents say, "I don't think you understand how hard that is."  
*The disciples didn't understand it at all – even though Jesus kept telling them He was going to die.*
6. What did Jesus say makes a person great? *Being a servant.*
7. What does it mean to be a servant for Jesus? *Brainstorming here.*
8. Do we serve Jesus to get him to love us, or do we serve him because we love him and what he's done for us? *We don't have to do anything to get Him to love us. We serve because we love Him in return.*

### *Questions for younger children*

1. What would you think if Jesus had told you he was going to die on the cross?
2. What did Jesus say would happen to him after he died on the cross?  
*He would come back to life the third day.*

3. Who did James and John get to ask Jesus for a favor? *Their mother*. Why do you think they did that?
4. What was the favor James and John's mother asked? *For her sons to sit on each side of Jesus in his kingdom*.
5. What did Jesus say makes someone great? *Being a servant*. What does a servant do?
6. How can you be a servant for Jesus? [Brainstorming here](#).

## PRAYER:

Encourage the children to talk to Jesus about his gift of salvation and/or how they can show him their love by serving others.

Ask for responses to these questions (or your own), for instance:

"How do you show people that you love them?"

"Can you do that for Jesus?"

"Did you know that Jesus said whenever you do kind deeds for people who need help, you do it to me?"

"Is there some way you could show people who need help that you love Jesus?"

Close with something like:

*Lord Jesus, thank you for dying on the cross for us. Thank you for telling us about it in the Bible. Thank you for showing us how your children can be truly great. Help us all want to serve others because we love you. In Jesus' name, amen.*

## MEMORY VERSE:

### **Matthew 20:28**

...the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.

Hand motions and repetition are very effective at teaching memory verses to small children. You can use these, or make up your own:

...the Son of Man did not come (*shaking head*) to be served (*hold one hand up as though signaling "STOP"*), but to serve (*using both hands act as though you're handing someone a gift*), and to give his life (*Stretch arms out as on a cross*) as a ransom for many (*point generally to everyone in the room*).

The hand motions are effective even with adults, if you can get them to do it. Older children might balk, however. Repetition, looking up the scripture in the Bible, or

writing the verse on a board and erasing words one at a time are also effective memory aids.

## Drama:

This story would be easy to dramatize, using the scripture as narrative. The teacher can read the scripture as the students pantomime the actions. The characters are:

Jesus	James	All the rest of the disciples
John	Their mother	

There are two scenes:

1. Jesus and disciples walking as he announces his coming crucifixion.
2. James and John bringing their mother to Jesus. Jesus questioning James and John. The other disciples showing how upset they are with the brothers. Jesus' explanation of greatness.

## ACTIVITIES:

### **Mother May I?**

Use masking tape to make a finish line at one end of the classroom. Have students line up across the opposite end of the room. One student is the "Mother." She calls on each child in turn, telling them to take a step forward. The child can only move if he/she asks and receives a positive answer to the question, "Mother, May I?" (Mother responds, "Yes, you may!" or "No, you may not.")

The object is to be the first to reach the finish line. Various steps are offered by the Mother: giant step, hop, baby step, scissors step, side-step, elephant step – whatever the Mother makes up.

Talk about how important mothers are.

### **Supper Time Balance**

This is a silly servant theme game where you give each child a tray and get them to walk across the room balancing the things you put on it. Start with simple things but add more and more paper plates, plastic cups, and random pieces of cutlery. When they drop something they are excluded. This game can be done in teams or individually.

### **Musical Chairs**

A traditional game that ties well into the request that James and John made to be seated at Jesus' right and left. Have one less chair than there is children in the group, when the music stops the children need to find a chair. The last one standing is out. Ask the children at the end if it mattered who they were seated next to.

## ART:

### **Servanthood Illustration**

Fold a piece of art paper into sixths (or fourths for younger children). In each square draw a picture of a way to serve – either someone the student has observed serving or a way that they can serve others. This can be as artful or not as the student is able and time allows.

**Greatness Craft – see attached**