



You want to be great.

“What were you arguing about on the road?” But they kept quiet because on the way they had argued about who was the **greatest**.
Mark 9:34

“The Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men. They will **kill** him, and after three days he will rise.” *Mark 9:31*

The true path to greatness is to serve.

Sitting down, Jesus called the Twelve and said, “Anyone who wants to be **first** must be the very **last**, and the **servant** of all.” *Mark 9: 35*

“Everybody can be great because anybody can serve.”
Martin Luther King, Jr.

He took a little child whom he placed among them. Taking the child in his arms, he said to them, “Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes **me**; and whoever welcomes me does not welcome me but the **one** who sent me.” *Mark 9:36-37*

When you serve people, you are serving God.

“For I was hungry and you gave me something to **eat**, I was thirsty and you gave me something to **drink**, I was a stranger and you **invited** me in, I needed clothes and you **clothed** me, I was sick and you **looked after** me, I was in prison and you came to **visit** me.”
Matthew 25:35-40

“When you learn to plug this truth into your life, it will result in the greatest relationships possible - and the greatest life possible.”
Tom Holladay

You will always harvest what you plant. *Galatians 6:7*

Jesus is our example.

“I have set you an **example** that you should do as I have done for you.” *John 13:15*

“But I am among you as one who **serves**.” *Luke 22:27*

Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a **servant**... *Philippians 2:6-7*

But God demonstrates his own **love** for us in this: that while we were still sinners Christ **died** for us. *Romans 5:8*

For Group Discussion

Answer these questions prior to your Small Group meeting this week.

Introduction

We all want to be great – that is, to feel significant, important, or valued. We all know the desire to be great can cause trouble when not handled properly. But Jesus tells us there is a way to be great that does not bring trouble – and that way is serving others. When we learn to make love a verb by serving others, it will result in the greatest relationships possible – and the greatest life possible.

Discussion Questions

1. In our culture today, what makes a person look prestigious or great? Tell the group about someone you consider to be a great person.
2. Read Mark 9:33-35. Jesus tells His disciples that true greatness comes when someone voluntarily takes the lowest place of service and lives to help others. How do you think the disciples might have reacted to this new idea? Had you been there to hear this teaching, do you think your reaction would have been the same or different? Why?
3. Danny said, “When you learn to [serve others] it will result in the greatest relationships possible.” What happens in our relationships when we make love a verb by choosing to serve others? What are some factors in your current relationships that makes this choice difficult for you?

Read Mark 9:36-37 and Matthew 25:40. Jesus makes it clear that when we serve others, we are actually serving God. Does this idea make it harder or easier to serve others? Why?

4. What result would you expect if, over time, you began to choose the position of a servant in your relationships? How would your environments and relationships be different – at work, at home, at school, or wherever you interact with others?

Read Philippians 2:3-4. What are some practical ways you can make love a verb by looking out for the interests of the people in your life this coming week?

OUTREACH: GROUPS IN ACTION

The Greenwood campus needs caring, loving people to help in the Children’s Ministry as elementary and preschool leaders. You don’t need to be a “teacher” to be an amazing volunteer. Just be willing to share your life with some pretty amazing kids. We will help you figure out the rest. If you are interested in serving, please contact Elia Mrakovich at emrakovich@eclife.org or fill out our Children’s Ministry application at eclife.org/connect/childrens-ministry/.

We have a team of women who go into our Johnson County jails and minister to women on a regular basis. If this is an area that you are passionate about, or you would like to learn more about this amazing ministry, email Debbie Kidwell at dkidwell@eclife.org.

Action Step

Fill in the blanks below for this upcoming week.

My action steps are _____.

I’m accountable for _____, and their action steps are _____.

My memory verse is _____.

This coming week, I’m praying for: