

Session 4

James and John: Who is the most important?

Children learn from the story of James and John that disciples must have servant hearts

Scripture: Mark 10:35–45

Supplies:

- Felt board or clothes for actors to disguise themselves
- Toilet rolls to keep the pictures of Jesus and the disciples upright
- 3 wooden blocks of varying heights that look like a podium
- Copy of the crown; the front can be coloured gold and the back can have a picture of a broom. Glue it to a popsicle stick.
- Raffia/hay/pieces of paper
- Glue



Welcome

“Opposite” game: Let the children face you, with plenty of room on all sides... Instruct them to do whatever is the opposite of your instructions. (If you say turn left, they turn right. If you say stand up, they sit down.) Have kids sit out as they make mistakes until you are left with a winner.

Options game: The group stands in the middle of the room in front of you. You call out two alternative choices and they must choose which is the most important by standing at your right or left. Call out: Coke or Crème Soda, chocolate or chips, strawberry or chocolate milkshake, hockey or netball, etc. (There is no wrong or right answer, it is all about making choices.)

Introduce the disciples James and John. Practise their hand gestures (see session 1).



Worship

Settle-down ritual: Let us place ourselves in the presence of our loving God. Sit with your back resting against your chair. Put your feet on the floor. Feel the floor. Rest your hands gently in your lap or on your knees. Close your eyes. Listen to the sounds outside the room. (15 s) Listen to the sounds inside the room. (15 s) Listen to your breathing. “Thank you, Lord, for breath. Amen.”



Word

Mark 10:35–45:

(Act the story out on a felt board or with children as actors. Start with James, John and Jesus.)

James and John, Zebedee’s sons, came to Jesus and said: ‘Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask.’ ‘What do you want me to do for you?’ he asked. They said: ‘Allow one of us to sit on your right and the other on your

left when you enter your glory.' (*Jesus is in the middle with a crown on. John and James are next to Jesus.*) Jesus replied: 'You don't know what you're asking! Can you drink the cup I drink or receive the baptism I receive?' 'We can,' they answered. Jesus said: 'You will drink the cup I drink and receive the baptism I receive, but to sit at my right or left hand isn't mine to give. It belongs to those for whom it has been prepared.' Now when the other ten disciples heard about this, they became angry with James and John. Jesus called them over and said: 'You know that the ones who are considered the rulers by the Gentiles show off their authority over them and their high-ranking officials order them around. (*Pick up the crown, wave it over the disciples and put it back.*) But that's not the way it will be with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be a slave of all. (*Pick up the crown, turn it so that the broom side is facing forward and sweep it across the board or floor so that everyone can see that it is now being used as a broom.*) For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many.'

Children reflect on the story:

1. I wonder why people think they are more important than others.
2. I wonder how John and James felt when they heard Jesus' answer.
3. I wonder how you would have felt if Jesus asked you to serve others.
4. I wonder how you can serve people around you.



Working and Playing

- Make a crown that can be turned over and then looks like a broom to remind yourself that we must serve others. Children can decorate the broom with pieces of twine/hay.
- Decide with your group to serve someone in your school/community. Decide on an idea and a date for what you'll be doing.

Close with the benediction:

Jesus loves you very much.

He has invited you.

You are very welcome at his table.

He forgives you. He heals your heart.

His Spirit lives in you.

“Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant.” Mark 10:43b