

# 08 THE SERVANT MESSIAH

KEY TEXT: MARK 10:32-45

## CENTRAL truth

Some people think being an effective leader means being more powerful than anyone else and letting other people serve you. The disciples sure did. But Jesus was a different kind of leader: **He was the ultimate servant.** He expects His followers to be servants, as well. This kind of faithfulness is rewarded in God's kingdom.

## key question

**How is Jesus's definition of greatness different from the world's definition of greatness?**

According to the world's standards, a person is great if he or she has achieved more than others, is respected or feared by others, wields power or influence over others, or enjoys privileges others don't enjoy. The world doesn't necessarily expect great leaders to treat other people well. On the other hand, Jesus, the Savior of the world, has achieved more than anyone ever has, and He will be respected by everyone one day (see Phil. 2:10-11). He has ultimate power, and God has given Him the world. But for Him, greatness means humility and willingness to serve. It means putting aside what is yours for others.

## keep in mind

- Relationships are tricky, and perception is everything. Students might think that Jesus had a hand in creating the conflict between James and John and the rest of the disciples because He had given them special privileges before. Remind students that God expects those who are given much to give much (see Luke 12:48). Peter, James, and John were invited to see amazing things, yes, but only to prepare them for the difficult things they would endure as future leaders of the church.
- Jesus knew what waited for Him in Jerusalem. Students might wonder why Jesus took His disciples with Him instead of sending them away. Remind students that God had already told Jesus that none of the disciples would get hurt (see John 6:39). They needed to go as witnesses so that we could have their testimonies.

## application

**What steps can we take to make sure we continue to follow and serve Jesus instead of trying to use Him or lead on our own?**

## the win

**FOR THE STUDENT:** In some senses, following Jesus is simple: all we have to do is obey. But that's not easy! Students need to know that any suffering they go through for Jesus is worth it. God will use it to grow His kingdom and will reward them for it one day when He returns. In the meantime, Jesus will walk with them and help them.

**FOR THE LEADER:** Encourage students to consider what following Jesus could cost them and to make a plan to follow Him anyway. Share about some of the challenges you have faced simply because you follow Jesus. Share how Jesus encouraged you through these challenges and how God used them.

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