



Date: _____
Series: Meet the God/Man, Jesus
Winter Year 2, Lesson 39

Jesus—The Servant

Take Home Point: *Jesus is the greatest because he is servant to all. *Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson.

Bible Event: Mark 9:33-37. Who's the greatest of all?

Key Verse: Mark 9:35, "Whoever wants to be the most important person must take the last place and be a servant to everyone else."

We will help kids know:

- Jesus was the greatest because he was the greatest servant, giving his life for our salvation.
- For us to be great in God's eyes, we must stop thinking only of ourselves and start serving others.




We will help kids feel:

- Affirmation in being a servant like Jesus.
- Conviction when they think too highly of themselves and reminded that they are great in God's eyes when they put others first.

We will help kids do:

- Identify things they do well.
- Identify ways they can serve others, thus to be great by God's standards.
- Make a ribbon to remind them that the greatest is the servant of all.

THIS LESSON'S ROADMAP

DESTINATION	PAGE #	DISCOVERIES ON YOUR JOURNEY	SUPPLIES NEEDED
Small Group Warm-Up 	3-4	Kids make a sticker for themselves as a reminder of something they are great at.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> label circles (p. 15) <i>optional: print circles on cardstock and affix with rolled masking tape</i> scissors
Large Group 	4 7-9 10 11-12 12-13 13-14	Overview "Meet the God/Man Game Show" ---This week the game show contestants will attempt to spell the word "Servant." Puppet Presentation: "Is Gordy the Greatest?"—Gordy thinks he is the greatest. He even has a ribbon to prove it. Interactive Bible Reading: "The Greatest Servant to All" —A narrator reads Mark 9:33-37 while demonstrating servanthood and shining a child's shoes. Puppet Conclusion: "Is Gordy the Greatest?"—Gordy learns that to be the greatest in God's eyes is to be a servant to others. Testimonies: "Servants Tell Their Story"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gordy wearing a "greatest" sticker like the kids made game show set sport coat large placards with letters (These could be pieces of construction paper with letters boldly printed on them.) game board for letters to be attached to (This could be foam core or poster board.) bell, horn, or buzzer (2-4) 2-3 volunteers asked in advance to share testimonies about service (see appendix p.14)
Small Group Application 	4-6	Children change their stickers after discussing that being great involves service, and Jesus was the greatest servant to us when he died on the cross for our sin and rose again.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1" paper ribbons about six inches long, two for each child (blue or red) markers tape or gluesticks

Small Group Warm-Up: 15 minutes



Purpose: *Get pointed in the right direction!* Build relationships and help guests feel at ease. Do the learning readiness activity that will point your group in the right direction for the lesson.

Today's lesson introduces Jesus as the Servant. Typically, the warm-up time is very clear in presenting the theme for the day. Today and throughout the series, however, the warm-up must be much more subtle in stating the day's theme. The reason for this is that the large group presentation will be in a game show format. Contestants will be trying to guess the theme of the day. Therefore, today we do not want to blatantly mention beforehand that Jesus is the Servant. Even if this is not clearly spoken, the kids will be involved in a warm-up activity related to the topic.

Give each child a circle sticker (or a paper circle with "Greatest" printed and have them cut it out). Then ask the kids to each share their answers to the following question.

What is something that you do well?

After they answer the question, they can stick the circle on the front of their clothing (use rolled masking tape if paper). Once on, ask them to not pull it off until you tell them they can.

During this discussion, affirm the children for those things that they do well. *(The children need to feel good about the things they do well and be encouraged. They need to know, though, that it can be a problem when being great becomes so important that all they can think about is themselves.)*

Then continue:

Is it ever a problem when you do something really well, but then you "get stuck on yourself"?

That means all you can think about is yourself and not other people. Some may try so hard at being the greatest that all they can think about is themselves. They cannot think of anyone else, not even God. Can anyone give an example of that?

Today we will learn whom God considers to be truly great. Jesus told his disciples the secret of being great.

What do you think? In God's opinion, how do you become the greatest or most important person? Take responses but don't evaluate whether they are right or not. Then say:

Listen to the Bible event in large group so that afterwards you can tell how someone is truly great in God's eyes.

Large Group: 20-30 minutes



Purpose: *Help kids observe what the Bible says. Present the Bible event in creative fashion. Help kids begin to interpret what it means.*

Overview

“Meet the God/Man Game Show”---This week the game show contestants will attempt to spell the word “Servant.”

Puppet Presentation: “Is Gordy the Greatest?”—Gordy thinks he is the greatest. He even has a ribbon to prove it.

Interactive Bible Reading: “The Greatest Servant to All” —A narrator reads Mark 9:33-37 while demonstrating servanthood and shining a child’s shoes.

Puppet Conclusion: “Is Gordy the Greatest?”—Gordy learns that to be the greatest in God’s eyes is to be a servant to others.

Testimonies: “Servants Tell Their Story”

(The attached appendix is provided as a handout for those whom you select in advance to share a one-minute story of servanthood. An example might be someone who does “Meals on Wheels” or visits nursing homes regularly. Have him/her tell about the person(s) served and how it impacted them.)

Small Group Application: 20-25 minutes



Purpose: *Help kids map out the meaning of the Bible event in their lives. Use the questions to stimulate discussion but don't feel tied to them. Allow the Holy Spirit to guide you. Include personal examples from your own faith journey. The example of Christ at work in your life will leave lasting impressions of how Christ can work in the children's lives.*

Use your Bibles! Children need to learn how to look up references and follow along when scripture is read aloud. Allow for quality time of prayer at the close of the lesson.

Observation Questions: What happened?

Have kids refer to Mark 9:33-37 in their Bibles.

What were the disciples arguing about on the road? *(Mark 9:34. Who was the greatest.)*

What did Jesus say that the person who wants to be most important should do? *(Mark 9:35. Take the last place and serve everyone else.)*

When Jesus picked up the child, what did he say about welcoming that child? *(Mark 9:37. Whoever welcomes the child in Jesus' name welcomes him. Whoever welcomes Jesus welcomes the Father.)*

Interpretation Questions: What does this mean?

Why do you think the disciples were quiet when Jesus asked them what they were arguing about? *(They might have felt embarrassed.)*

How do you think the disciples responded when Jesus told them the key to being great is to be a servant? *(Maybe they stopped arguing about serving others.)*

Application Questions: What does this mean to me?

Think about how you wrote the word *Greatest* on your circle and stuck it on your shirt? That was to remind us about what happens when we think too highly of ourselves and get “stuck on ourselves” or “stuck up.”

In God's eyes, how can we be the “greatest”?

Jesus said in Mark 9:35, “*Whoever wants to be the most important person must take the last place and be a servant to everyone else.*”

What act of service did Jesus do to show he is the greatest of all because he is servant to all? *(He died on the cross for our sins.)* ***Jesus is the greatest because he is servant to all.**

When we remember all that Jesus did for us, it is easier to be a servant to others.

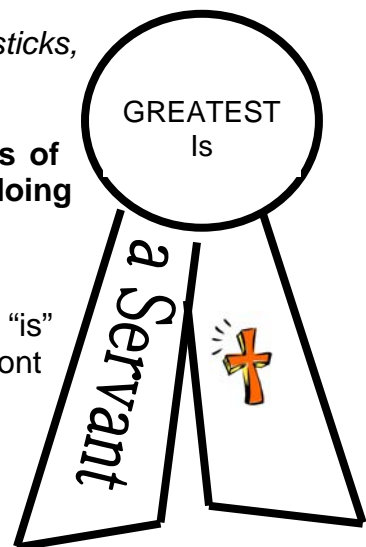
Application Activity:

Supplies: red or blue paper strips (ribbons), tape or gluesticks, markers

We are going to change our stickers to remind us of who is the greatest in God's eyes. While we are doing this, think of ways you can be a servant like Jesus.

Instruct kids to remove their stickers and write the word “is” beneath “Greatest”. Write the words: “A SERVANT” on the front side of one ribbon, and draw a cross on the other ribbon.

Glue or tape the ribbons to the back of the circle.



While kids are making their stickers, discuss and make a list of ways they can serve others.

Ways We Can Be a Servant at...

- Home:
- School:
- Neighborhood:
- Church:

Now the entire award says “Greatest is...a Servant” and the other ribbon has a cross showing what Jesus did to be our servant.

Have kids put the stickers back on and say:

When you wear your ribbons home, it will remind you to serve others this week. And remember **Jesus is the greatest because he is servant to all.*

Closing Prayer:

Close with prayer thanking Jesus for how he served us by giving his life for us. Ask Jesus for his help to serve others.

Options:

Instead of the craft, have kids help think about some service projects they can do at church this morning. For example: Kids could be special greeters or welcome people at the door. Kids could clean up a dirty area or pass out bulletins, etc.

Schedule a service “field trip” and go into the community to serve others such as singing at a nursing home.

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Large Group Presentation: 20-30 minutes

“Meet the God/Man Game Show”

The large group format for the “Meet the God/Man” series is a game show. The large group presenter is the game show host and Gordy is an assistant who ad-libs comments during the game show. Immediately after the game show, Gordy helps introduce the topic discussed that day. He does this with a brief scripted dialog, in which he presents a typical view of a third grade boy.

The more creative the set is for this game show, the more fun it can be for adults and children alike. In advance, gather adults to help with special props or decor. The large group presenter needs to have a bright or colorful sport coat or something to serve as a game show host costume. This will help the kids know when he is functioning as a game show host and when he is presenting the Bible event.

Throughout the series, large placards with letters will be necessary to make the mystery word and provide visual effect for the game. Today’s mystery word is “servant.” The God/man, Jesus, is a “servant” Seven placards with the letters spelling “servant” need to be available. Number the letters like below. As contestants answer questions, these letters are attached or turned over on the board or the wall. Be creative in your own facility as to how these letters can be posted. Foam core or poster board might be excellent backing.

The game format operates as follows:

The official beginning comes with the kids singing the “God/Man” theme song or a song of your choice that enhances the theme. It will be used throughout the series. To receive your copy of the music, go to http://www.awaken.nu/music_godman.php You can download the mp3 file (sample) for free or purchase a CD (includes trax and demo) for \$5.00, plus shipping and handling. Sheet music is \$3.00 plus shipping and handling.

Gordy then introduces the game show host. The game show host welcomes all of the contestants to the game “Who Is the God/Man?” (A game show sign would be helpful.) They would then randomly select contestants from the ping-pong ball container. Two boys and two girls should be selected to represent the team of each gender. Give the children the option of picking someone near them to substitute for them if they do not want to come up and be part of the show. This will compensate for kids who are shy.

The game show is conducted before the Bible event is read. Kids are guessing the answers, but then are better prepared to hear the main points of the Bible reading that is read after the game show.

The game show host will read a question and the contestants will beep in with a bell, a horn, or a buzzer. Whoever beeps first gets to answer the question. If they beep in before the question is completely asked, the host will not tell them the rest of the question. If they answer the question correctly, they get a chance to look at one of the letters to be placed on the board. They will have five seconds to guess what the word is that describes who our God/Man is. If they fail to answer the question correctly after

beeping in, the other team can answer the question following an additional clue. If that team correctly answers, then they will have five seconds to guess the descriptor for the God/Man. If neither team correctly answers the question, the letter is still revealed for the clue though no one is allowed to guess the word.

Typically, the kids will guess the word before all of the letters are given. Whichever team does this, wins the game. It might be interesting to keep a weekly tally of who is doing the best job. Nonetheless, it is still fun and helpful to complete the clues even after the word has been guessed. The remaining clues are given to Gordy so the questions can quickly be covered.

Clue Sheet
“Meet the God/Man” Game
Mark 9:33-37

S-E-R-V-A-N-T
7 5 6 2 1 4 3

For letter number one, can you answer the following? Last week Jesus went up a mountain with three of his closest disciples. They were Peter, James, and _____?

- A. Fred**
- B. John**
- C. Matthew**

(Answer: A. John)

You win the letter A! You have five seconds to guess what the God/Man is.

For letter number two, can you tell me the following? When Jesus was changed into his heavenly glory before his disciples, two people from the Old Testament were seen with him. Who were these two people?

- A. David and Goliath**
- B. Moses and Elijah**
- C. Fred and Barney**

(Answer: B. Moses and Elijah)

You win the letter V! You have five seconds to guess what the God/Man is.

For letter number three can you tell me the following? In last week's lesson a cloud came over Jesus and a voice said, "This is My Son." Where did this voice come from?

- A. Heaven**
- B. Joseph and Mary**
- C. No one knows**

(Answer: A. Heaven)

You win the letter T! You have five seconds to guess what the God/Man is.

For letter number four, can you tell me the following? In last week's lesson, Jesus was transfigured on the mountain, but he did not stay there. He had to go do something very important. It was the greatest thing he did. What was it?

- A. Heal the lame.**
- B. Walk on water.**
- C. Die on the cross.**

(Answer: C. Die on the cross)

You win the letter N! You have five seconds to guess what the God/Man is.

For letter number five, can you guess what we will learn today? In today's lesson the disciples of Jesus were arguing with themselves. They were arguing about:

- A. Who ate all the peanut butter sandwiches.**
- B. Who was the greatest.**
- C. Whose turn is it to wash the dishes.**

(Answer: B. Who was the greatest.)

You win the letter E! You have five seconds to guess what the God/Man is.

For letter number six, can you guess the following? In today's lesson Jesus will pick up a child and tell the disciples something. Will he tell them...

- A. "If you welcome this child in my name, you welcome me."**
- B. "These children run around too much. You must make them stop and be still."**
- C. "Here's the one that ate the peanut butter sandwiches."**

(Answer: A. "If you welcome this child in my name, you welcome me.")

You win the letter R! You have five seconds to guess what the God/Man is.

For letter number seven, can you tell me the following? In today's lesson Jesus will say, "If you want to be great you must be the servant of _____."

- A. "People you like."**
- B. "Everyone else."**
- C. "No one."**

(Answer: B. "Everyone else.")

You win the letter S! You have five seconds to guess what the God/Man is.

Is Gordy The Greatest?

Puppet Presentation

Gordy comes out wearing a “Greatest” sticker.

Gordy: Hi, Mr. King! I like today’s Kingdom Quest! We got to talk about who is the greatest!

Mr. King: Yes, Gordy, and we have some great kids here. I wish I could have heard some of the things that kids are great at. As a matter of fact, let me find out from some people in the audience. ***What are you great at?*** (Ask one or two kids.)

Whatever the interviewed child says, Gordy boasts that he is even greater.

Gordy: That’s nothing, I’m even greater than...*(He gives more detail as to why he is greater).*

Mr. King: Oooh, Gordy. It sounds like you are a little “stuck on yourself.” We all can be that way at times. In today’s Bible event, we find that the disciples also argued about who was the greatest.

Gordy: Good thing I wasn’t there; I could have settled that argument. Check out my ribbon award.

Mr. King: Jesus did settle it. He settled it by giving us a whole new way to decide who is the greatest.

Gordy: How is that?

Mr. King: Gordy, why don’t you figure it out? I’ll read the Bible event and then we will talk about it.

Gordy: I hope it proves I’m the greatest.

Mr. King: We’ll see...

Go to “The Greatest Servant to All.”

The Greatest Servant To All

Interactive Bible Event

Mark 9:33-37

This Bible event is read in story-tell fashion while the presenter shines a child's shoes.

Select a volunteer from the audience and ask them to sit in front of the storyteller who goes about the business of shining that child's shoes while he tells the Bible event. The script can be placed in the narrator's Bible and laid to the side so he might be able to follow it. A few questions are asked of the child while he reads the Bible event.

Begin with:

To tell a Bible event today, I need a volunteer from the audience, one preferably with black shoes. Thank you, _____ (insert the child's name). Please come up and have a seat. Please put your foot on this stool while I tell the Bible event.

Narrator begins to shine the child's shoes.

This is what it says in Mark chapter 9 beginning at verse 33. *"Then they came to Capernaum. (That refers to Jesus and his disciples.) While Jesus was at home, he asked the disciples, 'What were you arguing about on the road?' They were silent."*

Addressing the child:

Can you guess what they were arguing about? The Bible says that, *"On the road they had argued about who was the greatest."*

Let me interrupt the story for just a moment. Have you ever been in an argument with someone else about who is the greatest? I think it's easy to do because often times we want to appear very important in the eyes of others. We want them to think we are the greatest. But I wonder how God sees it. In his eyes, who do you think he sees as the greatest?

Let's find out...verse 35, Jesus sat down and called the disciples. *He told them, "Whoever wants to be the most important person must take the last place and be a servant to everyone else."*

Let me interrupt my story one more time. Do you know why I'm shining your shoes? Because it reminds me of another time Jesus taught his disciples that the greatest must be the servant of all. He gave them an example. He got down and washed his disciples' feet. That's kind of like me getting down and shining your shoes.

Now I'll keep on reading at verse 36: "Then he took a little child and had him stand among them. He put his arms around the child and he said this..."

Have the child for whom you are shining shoes face the audience. Put your arm around him as you say the following:

Whoever welcomes a child like this in my name welcomes me."

Hey wait a minute everyone! Let's try that. Let's welcome _____ (insert child's name) here in Jesus' name. Everyone say, "_____ (Insert child's name), welcome to Kingdom Quest."

Response from kids: "Welcome to Kingdom Quest."

Welcoming this child, then, is just like welcoming Jesus. By helping him (or her) feel welcome here, you are serving Jesus. That's like serving and welcoming Jesus.

Now I'll read the last sentence. "Whoever welcomes me [Jesus said], welcomes not me but the one who sent me."

Jesus was sent by his Father. So when we welcome our volunteer, in Jesus' name, we are welcoming Jesus *and* the Father. When we serve, we are serving Jesus *and* God the Father. Now, isn't that the greatest thing that anyone could ever do? That's why Jesus said, "*Whoever wants to be the greatest must be the servant to everyone else.*"

Thank the volunteer and ask him/her to be seated.

Is Gordy The Greatest?

Puppet Presentation Conclusion

Mr. King: So, Gordy, do you understand how Jesus gave us a whole new way to decide who is the greatest?

Gordy: Yeah, he told us to be great by becoming a servant to all. Does that mean I have to shine everyone's shoes?

Mr. King: Well, that's one way to serve others, but there are other ways, also. Gordy, you would do a great job welcoming kids to Kingdom Quest, and that's one way to serve them and also serve Jesus.

Gordy: Oh, I can do that great! Hey, kids, welcome, welcome, welcome! Welcome Billy, welcome, Jennifer, welcome Brianna, welcome...

Mr. King: Okay, Gordy, thank you. That's enough welcoming for now. Let me show you some examples of how God can use ordinary people with their own special gifts, to help serve others and welcome them into God's Kingdom.

I would like to introduce to you some of the greatest in God's Kingdom because they are servants to everyone else. I've asked some grown ups and kids to come up and share very briefly one way they are a servant to everyone else, and by doing so they are serving Jesus.

Have a few people share testimonies at this time. (See appendix page for suggestion as to what people might share as a personal testimony. An example might be someone who does "Meals on Wheels" or visits nursing homes regularly. Have him/her tell about the person(s) served and how it impacted them.)

After testimonies, conclude with the following:

Gordy: Well, Mr. King, we do have a lot of great people around here.

Mr. King: Yeah, but I don't think these people are just trying to get everyone to think they are great. These people are filled with God's love because they know that Jesus served them the very best way possible. Jesus went all the way to the cross to die for their sins. They know that Jesus is alive right now and serves them every day with whatever they need. Because of that, they want to serve others. They probably don't care at all about being the greatest.

Gordy: Oh, I see, well, I guess they would be the greatest in God's eyes.

Mr. King: That's right, Gordy. Why don't you close us in prayer?

Gordy: Dear God, thank you for giving us Jesus. He really was the greatest servant of all. Thank you, Jesus, for serving us by giving your life for us and dying on the cross for our sin. Now, help us to be like you and serve others and not worry about trying to be the greatest in the eyes of others. Instead, help us only think about serving you. We pray in Jesus' name, Amen.

Testimonies

“Servants Tell Their Story”

Today in Kingdom Quest, the kids are learning that **Jesus is the greatest because he is servant to all* but Jesus also told us that the greatest among us would be a servant to everyone else as well.

We would like to give the children real-life examples of people who serve God by serving others. We also realize that this might feel a little bit embarrassing to talk about how you serve God because you are not seeking your own glory. However, the kids need real life examples to counteract what the world tells them every day.

In telling your story, please keep it under one minute. Simply tell them one thing you do to serve others and how that helps welcome people into God's kingdom. Conclude with a comment that it is a privilege to serve others since Jesus has served us so thoroughly by giving his life for us.

