

# DISCUSSION NOTES

**APRIL 30, 2017**

Pray and ask God to teach you, help you trust Him more deeply, & strengthen you to live what you learn.

## GETTING STARTED

1. List and describe the top three things small children contribute to human civilization and to society at large.

## DIGGING IN

2. Read Mark 9:30-37. Make 7-10 quick observations about these verses. Who is present? What action takes place? What emotion do you feel? Who is challenged? What is the focus? What do we learn about God? What do we learn about people?
3. When you consider the earlier events in Mark 9:1-29, what might have led to the disciples' conversation about being the greatest? Can you imagine how this conversation might have gone?
4. How does the disciples' argument (verses 33-34) demonstrate that they did not understand what Jesus was saying about his death (verses 30-32)?
5. Consider the contrast between Jesus' thoughts in verses 30-32 and the disciples' thinking in verses 33-34. How different were their mindsets, values, and goals? What do these differences say about how much the disciples had yet to learn?
6. In verses 35-37, how does Jesus describe greatness?
7. Jesus welcomes a child into his arms to make a point in his lesson. What is he saying about the kinds of people we are supposed to welcome and to serve?
8. What does Jesus' instruction mean for our discipleship? What are the implications of serving others for our spiritual life and our attachment to God?

## LIVING IT OUT

9. Why does the way of Jesus seem so upside-down to us? He achieves victory through death. He says the first will be last and the greatest must be a servant of all. How is this hard? How is this encouraging?
10. Jesus welcomes children, who were without status and importance in his day. Children are constantly needy, too immature to be grateful, and unable to return the service we offer. What does this say about our hearts and about the kind of people we should serve?
11. How radical is Jesus' call to serve and to embrace people whom we might be tempted to view as "beneath us"? What implications does this have for our human differences morally, politically, racially, intellectually, or socially? Is this difficult for you?
12. Jesus shows us what true humility and true service are through his death and resurrection (see verses 30-32). How does keeping our focus on Jesus' sacrificial love poured out for us give us motivation and power to serve others?