

Grant us, Lord, not to be anxious about earthly things, but to love things heavenly; and even now, while we are placed among things that are passing away, to hold fast to those that shall endure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

### **LOOK**

At what do you strive to be greatest?  
In what part of your life do you want to be first?

### **BOOK**

Mark 9:30-37

30They went on from there and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it; 31for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, “The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again.” 32But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him.

33Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, “What were you arguing about on the way?” 34But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest. 35He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, “Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all.”

36Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, 37“Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.”

- 1) The disciples had just heard Jesus tell them a second time that he would

be killed. Why did they not ask him any questions?

- 2) Is Jesus telling us not to strive to excel? How do we strive to be last? Do we not try to do anything well?
- 3) Discuss how this passage has been used over the centuries to justify slavery, oppression and abuse.
- 4) Children were held to be of very little value in the time of Jesus. What does it mean that Jesus calls the disciples to honor and receive a child? Who are the ‘children’ in our time and culture who have no value?
- 5) Jesus taught and modeled humility – (root ‘humus’ – earth). Humility is not equal to poor self-esteem or martyrdom. What does Jesus do to model humility?

### **TOOK**

- 1) How do we escape the winners/losers, best/worst messages of our culture?
- 2) Humility is defined as living in right relationship with God and one another, in everything pointing to God rather than ourselves. How can we live with humility and yet celebrate the innate gifts God has given each of us?
- 3) Jesus calls us away from finding our worth in what we do, or earn, or look like, or achieve. Our worth comes from being made by, and loved by, and forgiven by God. How would

this new perspective on our worth  
make our daily choices different?  
How would this new definition of  
value be freeing for you?

- 4) “I have found the paradox, that if  
you love until it hurts, there can be  
no more hurt, only more love”.  
Mother Theresa. When our hearts  
break open to become channels of  
God’s grace, we will be servants of  
the greatest love of all. Discuss 😊

\*Teaching attributed to Rabbi Simcha  
Bunam of Parshis’cha (1765-1827): “Each  
person should have two pockets, within  
which is written two messages. In one  
pocket we’ll find: Remember that you are  
dust, and to dust you shall return. In the  
other, we’ll find: The whole universe was  
created for you. Whenever you need to be  
reminded of what you’ve forgotten, your  
smallness or your greatness, reach into your  
pocket. But use caution: the wisdom is in  
remembering which pocket to choose.”