

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE LEAST

Mark 9:30-50

Discuss review questions from the previous lesson.

DAY 1: MARK 9:30-32—MAKING THE POINT

1. Why didn't Jesus want His whereabouts known?
2. What essential truth did Jesus want the disciples to understand?
3. Read also Matthew 17:22-23 and Luke 9:43-45. This is the second of three attempts recorded by Mark to prepare the disciples for what would come. How did they respond and why?

DAY 2: MARK 9:33-37—MISSING THE POINT

4. Contrast the concerns of Jesus with the preoccupations of the men who followed Him.
5. How does Jesus point out the error in their value system?
6. What does 1 Peter 5:2-4 say about the attitude God desires from His ministers?
7. Which of these qualities of a shepherd most draws you? Challenges you?
8. According to Mark 9:37, how does God want us to treat children (or anyone without power and authority)?

DAY 3: MARK 9:38-41—ADVOCATING TOLERANCE

9. What did John tell Jesus?
10. What does Jesus' reply (and what you learn from the additional references) tell you about:
 - a. judgment? (See also Matthew 7:1; 1 Corinthians 4:5.)
 - b. tolerance? (See also Philippians 1:15-18.)

c. mutual respect among those who do Christ's work? (See also Romans 14:13.)

DAY 4: MARK 9:42-50—CAUSING ANOTHER TO SIN

11. In what ways can Christians cause one another to sin or stumble?

12. Jesus uses some very strong language in 9:43-47 to illustrate His teaching. What do you think He wants His hearers to understand?

13. How does Jesus describe hell?

DAY 5: REREAD MARK 9:30-50—GREATNESS IN GOD'S EYES

14. How does our culture measure greatness?

15. According to the following Scriptures, how does God measure greatness?
 - a. 1 Samuel 16:7

 - b. Matthew 5:19

 - c. Matthew 20:25-28

 - d. Philippians 2:5-8

DAY 6: PARTICIPATE IN CLASS

APPLY what you have learned. God calls us to develop a lifestyle of self-sacrifice and servanthood. If you were to become a more Christlike servant to a particular family member or friend, what changes would you make? Really think about this. Write down your ideas. Be specific. Try to implement at least one of these ideas *this* week. And remember, God will empower you, because "*it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure*" (Philippians 2:13).