

COMMUNITY GROUPS: *DISCUSSION GUIDE*

SERMON DATE: May 7, 2017; SERMON TITLE: #challengethenorm - "Let's Be Great"; SERMON TEXT: Mark 9:33-37

PREACHER: Pastor Ed Choy

PREPARE

Take a few minutes to read the main passage (below) used in the sermon from Sunday. Then answer the following questions, looking up Scripture verses where noted. Feel free to refer to other verses you may know that address the topic being considered.

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

Last Sunday, Pastor Ed asked the question, "What does it mean to #begreat?" In general, what do you think it means to be great? Then, personally, what does being great for you mean?

Mark 9:33-37 - New Living Translation (NLT)

The Greatest in the Kingdom

33 After they arrived at Capernaum and settled in a house, Jesus asked his disciples, "What were you discussing out on the road?" 34 But they didn't answer, because they had been arguing about which of them was the greatest. 35 He sat down, called the twelve disciples over to him, and said, "Whoever wants to be first must take last place and be the servant of everyone else."

36 Then he put a little child among them. Taking the child in his arms, he said to them, 37 "Anyone who welcomes a little child like this on my behalf welcomes me, and anyone who welcomes me welcomes not only me but also my Father who sent me."

DISCOVERING TRUTH

1. As you listened to and read **MARK 9:33-37** once again, what are some thoughts, feelings, or questions that come to mind? What was encouraging? What was convicting?
2. From this passage, what was something you learned about Jesus that you might have known, but forgotten? What was something you learned about

Jesus that was new? What questions do you have about Jesus from this passage?

3. Whether you're a Christian or not, how do we often find ourselves being *absorbed by being great*? What are some "side effects" of chasing something that we think will make us great?
4. How do we see Jesus #challengethenorm when it comes to "being great" from this passage? How does he illustrate being great?
5. We learned that it's not *bad* to desire to be great. That *desire* is God-given. In what ways might God be *re-directing* your desire to be great?
6. The *key* to being great is to be a "servant of all." It describes someone who serves *willingly*. In what way are you "shaped" (or, what do you have) that you might use for the sake of serving others?

LIVING IT OUT

Martin Luther King, Jr. said: "*Everyone has the power for greatness -- not for fame, but greatness, because greatness is determined by service.*" Jesus said in **Matthew 18:4**, "Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven." If possible, break out into smaller groups to keep one another accountable to this "call to action":

1. SET A GOAL THIS WEEK: What would it look like to be GREAT at home/work/school/in our neighborhood? What's one thing you can do this week to move in the direction of greatness? Take a moment and LISTEN to Jesus and then SHARE that with your group.
- 2) SAVE THE DATE: **June 7, 7-9PM**, the Men's Group is sponsoring another MANNA FOOD CENTER, PRE-SORTING EVENT. Here's a chance to serve the forgotten, marginalized and overlooked people in our neighborhood.

Key Concepts: 1) Referring to himself as the "Son of Man" would've resonated with his audience as meaning Jesus was the "Messiah," but that he would also suffer and die. 2) Jesus' prediction of his suffering and death was recorded three times in Mark: 8:31, 9:31, 10:33-34. 3) Mark 10:45 is the central theme of the Gospel of Mark -- the "Suffering Servant." 4) See **Luke 9:23** for how this "counting the cost" is a daily rhythm.

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EXTRA CREDIT: If you need to confess and repent of something, don't be afraid to ask someone to pray with you, right now!

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