



LESSON 1

REFERENCES: MARK 9:33-35; 10:35-39, 41, 43-45; THE DESIRE OF AGES, PP. 435-437, 548-551.

The “You First” Way

Have you ever raced with someone? Maybe you wanted to be the first to the swings, or the first to play with a toy. We all like to be first! A long time ago Jesus had something special to say about being first.

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esus and His disciple friends walked along the road to Jerusalem. The disciples had seen and heard many exciting things while they traveled with Jesus. Now the disciples were excited because they thought that very soon Jesus would become the king of their land. Many people wanted Jesus to be the king! They thought that if

Jesus became their king, things would be better.

The disciples wanted important jobs when Jesus became king.

They talked about

who would have the best

jobs. They argued about who would be first in Jesus' kingdom.

James and John said to Jesus, “When You are king, we want to



Memory Verse

“[Jesus said,]
‘Anyone who wants
to be first must
be the very last.’”
MARK 9:35, NIV.

The Message

We serve others
when we let
them go first.

sit right beside You! One of us could sit on Your left, and the other could sit on Your right!”

The other disciples heard James and John talk to Jesus. It made them angry! “Why should you two be next to Jesus?” they argued. “We deserve to sit next to Jesus as much as you do! We want to be first!”

Jesus knew His friends didn’t understand what it meant to be first with Him. He called them to come closer. “You know that some people think that if they are first, they are better and greater than anyone else. But I see it differently! I think the greatest people are the people who think of *others* first! If you want to be first with Me in My kingdom, you will think of others first. That is My way of being first.”



The disciples listened quietly. They remembered how Jesus always helped others. They remembered how He made people feel better.

They had seen Him heal those who were blind. They had been there when He healed people who could not walk. They had watched Him hold the children in His arms. They had heard Him speak kindly to everyone. When they thought of all this, they were ashamed.

Then Jesus smiled a big warm smile. “I didn’t come here to have people do things for Me,” He said. “I came here to do things for them! That is what I want you to do too.”

And that’s what Jesus wants you to do. You can be His helper. You can be first in Jesus’ way every day!

You can look for ways to make someone else happy. You can put others first. You can be a helper! Being first in Jesus’ way is fun.

Do and Say

SABBATH

Ask your child to show the finger puppets (made in Sabbath School) and tell about the “you first” way. Or read the lesson together to discover more about the “you first” way.

To review the memory verse each day, use the actions learned in Sabbath School. (See page 60.) Talk about things that Jesus did to put others first.

SUNDAY

Encourage your child to show and share with someone the toy made in Sabbath School. Remind him or her about the “you first” way. Read and discuss together the Bible story from Mark 10:35-39, 41, 43-45. What does it mean to be first in Jesus’ way?

MONDAY

Take a walk and practice the “you first” way as you pass through doors or meet others along the way. Count the people. What did they say when you let them go first?



TUESDAY

If possible, invite your child’s friend to visit. Sing the “Sharing Song” (“I have two dollies and I am glad . . .”). Name the toys from your child’s toy box. Thank Jesus that you have things to share.

WEDNESDAY

At the supper table, encourage your family to practice saying “you first” when passing the food. Talk about ways to put others first. Say the memory verse together.

THURSDAY

When he or she plays with others today, have your child practice saying “you first” and waiting for his or her turn. At bedtime, ask your child to tell about ways he or she put others first today. Ask Jesus to help him or her always to put others first.



FRIDAY

Let your child help in the preparation of food for Sabbath. Talk about ways to put others first at mealtime. Thank Jesus for food to share.