

Sunday October 20th

Trinity 21



Readings

Hebrews 5 verses 1-10

Mark 10 verses 35 - 45

Father, may we serve you in all we do.
Help us to always work together with others.
Amen.

Jesus, teach us to be caring and loving and
to think of other people before ourselves. Amen.

The Request of James and John

For some people, the best thing about having chicken for dinner is the "wishbone." After you finish eating, two people each hold one side of the wishbone, close your eyes and make a wish. Then you pull on the wishbone until it breaks apart. The one who gets the biggest piece is supposed to have his or her wish come true. Have you ever wished for something? On the count of three, say out loud what you wish for: 1, 2, 3. (Pause for responses.) Sometimes we make a wish without thinking about what would happen if our wish really came true. Have you ever planned to have a picnic and it rained? Perhaps you sat and watched the rain and grumbled to yourself, "I wish it would stop raining." What if that wish came true and it really stopped raining FOREVER? There would be no grass, no trees, no flowers. Rivers, lakes, and streams would dry up, and all life would begin to disappear. This world would be a miserable place if it stopped raining, wouldn't it?

James and John were two brothers who were disciples of Jesus. One day, the two of them came to Jesus and said to Him, "Teacher, we want You to do for us whatever we ask." "What do you want Me to do for you?" Jesus replied. "In Your glorious Kingdom, we want to sit in places of honour next to You, one at Your right and the other at Your left." You see, they thought Jesus was going to set up an earthly kingdom, and they wanted to sit beside Him on the throne. They wanted to share in His glory and greatness. Jesus answered, "You don't know what you are asking." Then He explained that whoever wants to be great must be a servant of all. He said, "For even I, the Son of Man, came here not to be served but to serve others, and to give My life as a ransom for many." I don't think that being a servant was exactly what James and John were wishing for! Sometimes you and I may say, "I wish I could be more like Jesus." But is that really our wish? If we really want that wish to come true, we must live as servants the way Jesus did. Only then can we be truly great and show God's love to the world.

Dear God, help us to mean it when we say, "I wish I could be more like Jesus." Please show us each day how to become a greater servant to those around us. In Jesus' name, Amen.

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- To sit at the right or left hand of an important person made you important and recognised too.
- The Son of Man is a title from the Old Testament Book of Daniel, used by Jesus to describe himself as fully human as well as being the Son of God.

Again Jesus tells the disciples not to quarrel with each other about who is the greatest. He tells them He has come as a servant and not as a king. He continues by telling them it is people who think of others before themselves who will be rewarded for their goodness, and they will have a place with Him in the kingdom of Heaven. God will measure our 'greatness' by our willingness to think of others before ourselves. Jesus did not come as a king but to serve all humankind. He put our needs first by dying on the cross for us to save us from sin. Do you know of anyone who puts the needs of others before their own? Have you heard of Mother Teresa? She was a nun who truly did just that. She made herself a servant of the people and always put the needs of the poor and sick people in India first. She did this because of her true love for Jesus and didn't expect any thanks or reward at all. We should always treat other people as we would like to be treated. Jesus said that whatever we do to others we do to Him.



Colour this picture of Jesus and the disciples

Talk together

When do you feel important?

What do you think was wrong with James and John's request?

How can we put others first in our daily lives?

Service bingo

A game about different ways of serving others

You will need: [bingo cards](#) for each person; a list of actions to read out (see below); coloured pens/pencils.

- Give everyone a bingo card.
- Ask a leader or volunteer to read from the list of actions to serve others. Ask everyone to colour in the service action, if what is read out is on their sheet.
- The first one to finish colouring all the sections on their sheet is the winner. Talk about what kind of community you would be if you all did these actions for one another.

A game about different ways of serving other



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Template to use with: *Service bingo*, p.32
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SERVICE
B I N G O

Smile at someone	Write a thank-you note to your teacher
Ask a parent/carer how his/her day was	Offer to help with a task at school
Invite someone to play with you	Give someone a compliment

SERVICE
B I N G O

Spend time with someone who is lonely	Give up some time to help others
Hold the door open for someone	Invite someone to sit with you at lunch time
Thank someone you meet, e.g. a shopkeeper or bus driver	Ask if there is something you can help with at church

SERVICE
B I N G O

Do a litter pick	Help a friend who is struggling
Help to cook a meal at home	Work to make some money for a charity
Help out with a task at home	Give a friend a high five

SERVICE
B I N G O

Make a treat for a neighbour/friend	Tidy up at home without being asked
Ask a parent/carer how his/her day was	Hold the door open for someone
Smile at someone	Write a thank-you note to your teacher

SERVICE
B I N G O

Tidy up at home without being asked	Give a friend a high five
Ask a parent/ carer how his/ her day was	Offer to help with a task at school
Thank someone you meet, e.g. a shopkeeper or bus driver	Give someone a compliment

SERVICE
B I N G O

Spend time with someone who is lonely	Give up some time to help others
Hold the door open for someone	Help a friend who is struggling
Invite someone to play with you	Ask if there is something you can help with at church

SERVICE
B I N G O

Do a litter pick	Invite someone to sit with you at lunch time
Ask a parent/ carer how his/ her day was	Hold the door open for someone
Help out with a task at home	Write a thank-you note to your teacher

SERVICE
B I N G O

Make a treat for a neighbour/ friend	Smile at someone
Help to cook a meal at home	Work to make some money for a charity
Smile at someone	Write a thank-you note to your teacher

List of actions to read out

Smile at someone
Write a thank-you note to your teacher
Do a litter pick
Help a friend who is struggling
Ask a parent/carer how his/her day was
Offer to help with a task at school
Help to cook a meal at home
Work to make some money for a charity
Invite someone to play with you
Give someone a compliment
Help out with a task at home
Give a friend a high five
Spend time with someone who is lonely
Give up some time to help others
Hold the door open for someone
Invite someone to sit with you at lunch time
Thank someone you meet, e.g. a shopkeeper or bus driver
Ask if there is something you can help with at church
Make a treat for a neighbour/friend
Tidy up at home without being asked

Wanted: Followers of Jesus

Consider the community Jesus wanted to create

You will need: paper, pens.

Ask your family to create wanted posters for people to join Jesus' community, featuring the characteristics needed to follow Jesus.

Encourage them to consider these questions: What is important about relationships in Jesus' community? How could you describe how Jesus wants his community to work together?

A symbol of your place in community

You will need: [a medal template](#) , printed on card, one per child; colouring pens, ribbon, a stapler.

- Give everyone a medal-shaped card.
- Ask them to write their name on it and colour in the letters.
- Help them to staple on the ribbon and wear it, if they wish.
- Talk together about how medals are a symbol of achieving something, but in today's session everyone gets a medal, because we all have a place in Jesus' community.

Remember those who are powerful and those who serve

- Display a chair and, if possible, decorate it to show power and authority, or explain that this is what it is to symbolise.
- Invite the children to sit in the chair, one at a time, to pray about those who are powerful in your community, then kneel before it and pray about those who serve others in the community. Then think about where they would like to be/where they are.
- Remind the children that we all need to be willing and able to serve each other, and that this is part of being in Jesus' community.

SERVANT SASH: Let children glue or tape strips of paper together to colour and decorate and hang over their shoulder to be a "servant sash". Write GOD'S SERVANT, or SERVANT IS THE GREATEST, etc.

(If you have a Deacon in your church have a look to see what they are wearing if they are robed)

Sermons4kids
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Everyone has a place in Jesus' community. When I serve others I am serving God.