

**Getting to Know Each Other.**

Share light refreshments. Go around the group and introduce yourselves and talk through this question: *“When you walk into a room full of strangers, what do you usually do?”* \*

**Follow up.** Did you get to share with someone about Jesus this past week?  
Or how else did you obey Jesus?

**Vision.** Jesus told us to “Make disciples.” The purpose of our Life Group is: To help people become Believers in Jesus and grow up to become Disciple Makers.

**Bible Study Introduction.** Jesus spent time with large groups of people, but the passage we are looking at today shows us that Jesus placed high priority on spending time with His smaller group of disciples. He teaches them about real greatness in the Kingdom of God.

**Pray.** Before we read the Scripture, let’s pray that God will speak to each one of us.

**Read.** We will read through the passage three times and then discuss it, so listen carefully. Get three people to read **Mark 9:30-37**. \*\*

**Discuss** these questions, one at a time, encouraging everyone who wants to respond to do so. Remind the group: Keep your answers based just on this passage.

1. What stands out or surprises you in this passage?
2. What does it show us about people and choices we can make?
  - Jesus said He was going to be killed and then rise from the dead, but the disciples didn’t ask Him about that. Instead, they started arguing about which one of them was the greatest. What does that show about the disciples?
3. What does this passage show us about God?
  - Jesus uses the word “welcome” four times in the last verse (v. 37). What does He mean?
  - Children usually have very little status and yet Jesus brought in a child to make His point. What did Jesus do with this child that showed what He meant by “welcoming”?
  - How does Jesus continue to welcome you?
  - Jesus takes welcoming very personally. He says when we welcome others, we welcome Him and His Father. What are some ways we might be making Jesus feel “unwelcome”?
  - What is Jesus teaching you right now about how He wants you to welcome others?

**Obeying Jesus.** As disciples of Jesus, we want to follow Jesus in whatever way He is leading us today. As we pray silently for 30 seconds, see if God speaks to your heart. Pray something like this: *“Lord Jesus, what do you want me to do with what You are showing me today?”* [30 sec. silent prayer]

Remember to obey what God is saying to you. And this week ask God who He wants you to talk with about Jesus. Let’s close in prayer.

**Closing Prayer.**

Pray something like: “Lord, prepare the hearts of the people we will be sharing the Good News of Jesus with this week. And give us strength and joy as we follow You. In Jesus’ name, Amen.”

*\* If there are no new people, you can skip the “icebreaker.”*

*\*\* Reading from different translations often helps.*