

To Be Like Jesus



Theme: To be like Jesus means a life of service to others. Proper 24 (29) Yr. B, Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost

Object: None is needed, but you could use a "wishbone" from a chicken or a turkey "if you wish."

Scripture: "Whoever wants to be a leader among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be the slave of all. 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."
Mark 10:43b-45 (NLT)

When I was a little boy, the best thing about having chicken for dinner was the "wishbone." After we finished eating, my sister and I would each hold one side of the wishbone, close our eyes and make a wish. Then we pulled on the wishbone until it broke apart. The one who got the biggest piece was supposed to have their wish come true.

Have you ever wished for something? Sure you have. We all have. 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 honor next to you, one at your right and the other at your left." You see, they thought that 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 greatness.

Jesus answered them and said, "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." (NLT) Jesus was right! 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." Is that really our wish? If we really want that wish to come true, we must give our lives in service to others.

Dear Jesus, help us to mean it when we say, "I wish I could be more like Jesus." Amen.

RIGHT AND LEFT GAME: The teacher can stand in various places around the room and when the teacher says RIGHT, the children will all run to the right of the teacher,

or if the teacher moves to another place in the room and shouts LEFT, the children will all see who can run first to the LEFT of the teacher, etc. Tell children to listen to the story today and see WHO wanted to be at the right and left of Jesus, to share in His greatness!

"SERVICE TO OTHERS" PLAYTIME: Give each child a small tray or plastic plate to serve another classmate. Divide the class into groups of 2 or 3. Each one will go to a "treat table" and pick 2 or 3 items off the table and SERVE another classmate in their group. (Teacher can have items on the "treat table" such as small candies, new pencils, stickers, etc). Make sure that each child has been SERVED! Children can also be encouraged to SERVE their teacher one item each, as well!

PICNIC BASKET SCRIPTURE: While telling the story, let children sit on a blanket on the ground or floor and children can take containers out of the picnic basket, one by one, and open and find a part of our Bible verse today. Let children put the Bible verse slips of paper together on the floor or ground after the story time. At the end, children could look for a special treat in the picnic basket, to enjoy after the story time.

SERVANT BANNER: Place a long piece of rolled-out paper on the table and let children draw out the words A SERVANT IS THE GREATEST OF ALL, in bright markers and decorate the banner, with children serving others, etc.

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

DOOR POSTER: Children can decorate a large poster to hang over the top of a door so BOTH sides of the door have today's lesson on it. Children can color, draw pictures of themselves, write their names in LARGE and colorful letters with the BIG words of WE ARE GOD'S SERVANTS, and SERVANTS ARE THE GREATEST and MORE LIKE JESUS. Hang the door-SERVANT-poster over the top of the classroom door with yarn or string. These also could be made in a smaller form and given to children to take home for their bedroom doors, to remember today's lesson on serving others and being more like JESUS.

HAPPY FACES: Give children supplies such as paper, glue, markers and stickers to make happy faces with cut out pieces of a face, such as triangles, circles and squares, etc, to glue onto a piece of construction paper. Craft "moving" eyes and felt could be used as well. After children have formed some happy faces on their paper, encourage children to write "I WILL BE HAPPY WHEN I AM MORE LIKE JESUS"!

MORE LIKE JESUS CARDS: Give each child a card to be folded and write MORE LIKE JESUS on the outside of the folded card. Then pass the cards around the room to have everyone SIGN their own name to each other's cards, plus a happy face beside their names. Children can then take their own card home and stand on their dresser to PRAY for each other to be MORE LIKE JESUS every day!

Theme: The Kingdom of God is about service not rewards. Proper 24/Ordinary 29 Yr. B

Object: A blue ribbon, a gold medal, a trophy

Scripture: Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. Mark 10:43-44 (NIV)

As you probably know, whenever there is a contest, the person who finishes in first place is

awarded a blue ribbon. Sometimes they may get a gold medal or perhaps a trophy like this one. It gives you a good feeling to be a winner, doesn't it? After all, you have worked hard and it is nice to hear the applause of others when you are awarded the prize. When someone sees that you have a blue ribbon, a gold medal, or a trophy, they know that you have done something very special.

James and John were two brothers who were disciples of Jesus. They thought that they were deserving of special recognition in the Kingdom of God. Now they knew that Jesus didn't hand out blue ribbons, gold medals, or trophies, so they decided between themselves just what special honor they deserved. They went to speak to Jesus privately. "Teacher," they said, "we want to ask you a favor of you."

"What do you want?" Jesus asked.

They answered, "When you are seated on your glorious throne, we want to sit in places of honor next to you, one on your right and one on your left."

"You don't know what you are asking," Jesus said to them. "Are you willing to suffer as I am going to suffer?"

"Oh yes," they replied, "we are able."

"You may be able to suffer as I will suffer. But I have no right to say who will sit on my right or my left. God has prepared those places for the ones he has chosen."

No doubt James and John were disappointed by Jesus' answer, and when the other ten disciples heard what James and John had asked, they were furious. After all, they were as deserving of this honor as James and John. Jesus heard their fussing and called all of them together. "You've seen how rulers in this world throw their weight around," he said, "and when someone gets a little power it quickly goes to their head. It's not going to be that way with you. Whoever wants to be a leader among you must become a servant. Whoever wants to be first among you must be the servant of all."

So you see, the Kingdom of God isn't about recognition, praise, and a seat of honor. It is about service to others. To see what that means, all you have to do is look at the life that Jesus lived. He came not to be served, but to serve, and he gave his life so that we could have eternal life. That is the greatest prize anyone could have.

Heavenly Father, may we, like Jesus, live a life of service to others. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

WINNING THE PRIZE RELAY: Divide the class into teams. At the start of the game, the first team player will run to the teacher and get a PRIZE and then run back to the team and pass the "prize" over his head to the next person who will pass the prize between his legs to the next player. The team members will alternate passing the prize over and under until the last person on the team receives the prize. That person will run the prize back to the teacher and will get another prize and run back to the team to continue the relay. Continue until all the players have had a turn getting a prize to pass and the final prize is back in the teacher's possession!

WRAPPING PRIZES RELAY: Divide the children into several groups depending on the size of the class. Give each team at least three prizes to wrap together when the teacher says "go." The children will need some wrapping paper and tape. No scissors are allowed. The children must tear the wrapping paper to fit the prize! When the

children have completed wrapping all of their gifts, they will take the gifts to a designated area and then run back to their seats! Then have children gather in the prize area and sit in a circle to discuss today's lesson.

PLAY DOUGH TROPHY: Give each child some play dough or modeling clay to design their own trophy! When all of the children have finished making their trophy, they will talk about the trophy they designed. Display the trophy's on a table outside of the classroom for other classes to see! The teacher or a child could make a table poster saying WINNING THE PRIZE - BE A SERVANT LIKE JESUS.

BLUE RIBBON: Provide the children with wide blue ribbon or blue construction paper to make a blue ribbon and write SERVE OTHERS on it. Give the children some stickers to decorate their blue ribbon. Pin the ribbon to the children.

PLAY ACTING: Let the children take turns being the disciples and asking questions of Jesus who is represented by another child. The child representing Jesus will give answers to the questions asked. Tell children to use their imagination and pretend that they think they're very special. Continue play acting as time allows. You may wish to have the children quote the Bible memory verse during the play as well.

BIBLE VERSE GOLD MEDAL: Provide the children with shiny gold wrapping paper and let each child make a large round circle representing a gold medal. Have the children write today's Bible verse on that medal and then tape it to their shirts or display them around the classroom.

WRAPPED PRIZE: Let the children write HOW CAN I SERVE YOU TODAY on a sheet of paper and then roll that paper up like a scroll and put a sticker on it to hold it shut. Encourage the children to give their scroll to someone during this week to encourage them and to be a servant to others.

KINGDOM OF GOD POSTER: Make a large poster for the children with two column headers. One column heading is SERVING and the other column heading is SELF! Let children take turns using colored markers to write a word from today's lesson under one of the two columns — whether their word is to SERVE others or a word that would be SELFISH. Children will enjoy writing their words in a variety of colored markers to create a very colorful poster that will remind them to be a SERVANT TO ALL!