



## GOD CALLED OUR FATHERS

UNIT TWO: Isaac, Jacob, Joseph

**Lesson 5:****Jesus Showed Us How to be Great**

## CONTENT:

1. Just like Joseph's brothers, Jesus' friends (the apostles) also wanted to be great, but in the wrong way. James and John wanted to be great by getting important places in God's kingdom, and the others got angry with them.
2. Jesus taught them how to be great. He did a servant's job and washed their feet. Then he told them to follow his example.
-  3. If we are put in charge of others, we should not 'boss over' them or act rude or selfish, but we should try to serve them and do our best for the sake of everyone.
-  4. God has also put others in charge of us; so we should co-operate with them and help them to do their job so that everyone benefits and God is happy.

REFERENCES: Matthew 20:20-28 (Mark 10:35-45) John 13:3-15. CCC 1902; 2235-2239.

MATERIALS NEEDED: Handouts, packet of sweets.

HOME ASSIGNMENT: Read the handout.

**I. STARTER:**

*[Check if the children found the number of the psalm: Psalm 139]*

- Last week we heard about Joseph and his older brothers. Why were the brothers angry with Joseph? *[Their father had given him a special coat. He had dreams of them bowing before him.]*
- Why didn't they like the idea of bowing down to Joseph? *[Maybe they felt he was not very important because he was smaller than them.]*
- Do you like being in charge (the monitor) or do you like to listen to other people? *[Accept the children's answers]* Some people like to be the 'boss' and to tell others what to do. Most of us don't like to listen to others.

**II. DEVELOPMENT:**

Once something happened that made Jesus' friends angry, just as Joseph's brothers were. Just as Jacob had twelve sons, Jesus had twelve special friends who were called apostles. The youngest of them all was named John. He had a brother called James. Sometimes Jesus took James, John and Peter along for some special work or outing. Once he took them up a mountain where they saw him shine like the sun.

One day the two brothers sat talking. Their mother was also sitting nearby. They said, "Jesus is very great! He is going to be a king one day!"

"Yes, when he becomes king, he will sit on a throne. He will be rich and powerful."

"I wonder who will sit next to him!"

"Of course it will be you and me. He always takes us for special jobs."

"But what if he chooses someone else? Maybe he will take Peter and leave us out!"

John and James' mother said, "Get up you silly boys! What is the use of talking and wondering? Come with me. We'll ask the master to give you the best places!"

She went into the house where Jesus was sitting and her two sons went behind her. She knelt down in front of Jesus and said, "Master, please will you promise me something."

Jesus knew what she was going to say, but he said, "First tell me what you want."

She said, "When you become king, let my sons sit next to you, one on your right and one on your left." Jesus smiled and shook his head. He said, "You don't know what you are saying. My Father will decide who will sit on my right and my left!"

Just then the other apostles came back. They heard Jesus talking and they were very angry.

“Oho! While we are out these two little babies are trying to catch the best places! Do they think that they are better than us?” Then they also began to fight with each other and show off.

“I should get the best place, because I am the cleverest!”

“Who said you are so clever? I come from a rich family, so I should be the one in charge.”

“I started following Jesus before any of you. Of course the Master will choose me.”

Jesus heard all the voices getting louder and louder and knew what was going on. He called out, “Come here all of you and sit down. I have something to say to you!”

When they were all sitting down, he looked at their grumpy, angry faces and said, “I know all of you want to be important and great and to boss over everyone else. Shall I tell you how to be great?”

The apostles nodded their heads. “Yes, tell us.”

Jesus said, “If you want to be great, be a servant. Be like me. I didn’t come to boss people around, but to serve. I came to die for you.”

The apostles looked at Jesus. Yes, it was true. Jesus was always kind and helpful. He was different from other masters. He never shouted at them or acted rude. They put their heads down, ashamed of themselves. “Sorry Jesus!” they said. “We’ll try to be more like you.”

Jesus smiled at them. “Yes, try your best. And I will help you!”

*[Appoint the characters and allow the children to enact the story they have just heard.]*

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#### NEXT CLASS:

- Last time we heard how Jesus’ apostles got angry with each other because each one wanted to be greater than the others. Then Jesus told them the secret of how to be great. What did Jesus tell them? *[He said, “Be like me! Be a servant!”]*

One evening, Jesus and his apostles were having a very special dinner. There was roast mutton, and wine and special sauces and bread. But just before they could eat, Jesus did something very shocking. He got up from the table and took off his outer robe. Then he took a towel and tied it round himself. All the apostles stared. What was Jesus going to do?

Jesus went and got a basin and a big jug of water. He put the basin down near Peter’s feet. Then he lifted his dirty feet and put them into the basin. Peter jumped up and pushed Jesus away. “No master! You can’t do that. This is a servant’s job. It’s not right for you to do.”

But Jesus said, “Let me do it.” He poured water over Peter’s feet and washed them. Then he went right round and did the same for each of his apostles. When he had finished, he put on his robe again and sat down at the table. He looked round at all his friends and said, “Did you see what I did for you? I am your master and I have washed your feet. I want you to be like me. Treat others in the same way.”

#### III. REFLECTION & PRAYER:

- Close your eyes. Imagine that you also are sitting with the others and Jesus is washing your feet. Then Jesus looks at you and says to you, “Be like me. Be a servant. Will you try?” Talk to Jesus and tell him your answer. If you want to be great, like him, tell him that you will try. Ask him to help you.
- We have learnt how to be a good leader. But what about being a good follower? How would Jesus like you to act if you someone else is in charge of you? Let’s see what happens when we don’t listen to someone who is in charge. *[Give a child a packet of sweets and ask him/her to distribute them. Then as he does so, encourage the children to misbehave, acting like a child yourself, getting out of place, grabbing, demanding more etc. Then stop the play and talk about it.]*
- Did everyone get a sweet? Did you feel happy? Did the leader feel happy? Why did things go wrong? God has put some people in charge of us to help us. We should listen to them and do what they ask us to do. That way, we will all be happy and God will be happy too. *[Give out the handouts and fill in the words ‘You also must do as I have done.’ Do the puzzle by finding the words in the box and writing them in the appropriate blocks. The children add faces, hair etc to the people..]*

**Home assignment:** Read the handout.