

## Long Story Short: I Am Last

### Reflect

1. When have you seen contests or fights between people or parties surround the question of who is the greatest?
2. How did their contest change your viewpoint on them?
3. When have you found yourself in such a squabble?

### Read Your Bible

- Mark 9:33-37; Mark 10:13-16
- Jeremiah 7:1-7

### Apply God's Word to Your Life

1. Why do you think everyone wants to be the greatest?
2. Briefly, put yourself in the shoes of a 4-year-old child. What are the most important things in your life? What makes you happy?
3. What do you think changes in the mind of a child as they continue to grow up and mature? How did your thoughts change when you grew up?
4. In what ways do you compare yourself to others? Do you ever try to make yourself look better than others?
5. What do you think Jesus means when He says, "Anyone who wants to be first must be the very last...?"
6. Our culture places such a high emphasis on becoming the best and making it to the top. Do you think Jesus agrees with what our culture says? Why or why not?
7. What thoughts come to mind when you hear the word *servicing*? Does it make you feel the excitement like that of a child, or does it seem like a burden?
8. Why did Jesus bring a child into the conversation? What point do you think Jesus was trying to communicate to His disciples?

### Conclusion

Jesus' teaching on greatness knocks His followers off their high horse of arrogance and pride and repositions them to follow the heart of God, who defines greatest in the context of serving. As in all areas of ministry, God desires for service to be a blessing, not a burden. A joy, not a job. A romance, not a routine. In doing this, God will work on our hearts to strive not only to be great in this life, but to view greatness in light of eternity. It may not always be the most glorious in this life, but it will store up glory for us in Heaven. Listen to what Jesus has to say about welcoming a child and then go do it!

### Pray

Lord, I confess to You that I often view myself as more than I am and view You as less than You are. I so often put my needs and desires first, and therefore have not served You with my whole heart. By the power of Your Holy Spirit, please create in me a heart, O Lord, that desires to love and serve You and Your people. I ask that You lead and strengthen me by Your grace to have the faith and joy of a child when serving You. In Jesus' name. Amen.