

## Week 2

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### Humility

*“A dispute arose among them as to which of them was considered to be greatest. Jesus said to them, ‘The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those who exercise authority over them call themselves Benefactors. But you are not to be like that. Instead, the greatest among you should be like the youngest, and the one who rules like the one who serves. For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one who is at the table? But I am among you as one who serves.’”*

Luke 22:24-27

Who would you say is the greatest athlete in the world? How about the greatest painter, the greatest musician, or the greatest leader?

We all have our own personal opinions about who is the greatest in any particular field. And maybe you’ve dreamed yourself about someday being considered the greatest at something. But what would you do if someone in your family were to say, “Hey, everyone, I have an important announcement to make. I just want you all to know that I am the greatest person in this family!”

You might laugh at that person at first, because you know just how imperfect they really are. Or maybe you’d be angry at them for being so selfish and prideful to think that they are better than you and everybody else.

That must have been how Jesus’ disciples felt when, on more than one occasion (Matthew 18:1-5; Matthew 20:17-28), they actually argued and fought with each other about which one of them was the greatest.

When Jesus found out about His followers’ arguments, He took the opportunity to teach them – and us – a very important lesson: Greatness is not about who has more money or more talent or more power. True greatness, Jesus said, is determined by humility and service.

Being humble is not something that comes very naturally for us. We may not like to admit it, but we are all born with the feeling that the world revolves around us. We need and want to be recognized by others as important. We want others to honor and serve us. We like to be in charge and to win every argument. And it makes us feel jealous and inferior when someone else gets more attention or praise than we do.

But Jesus is saying that, as Christ-followers, we are called to live differently than the rest of the world. We are called to follow His example of humility. Jesus consistently served others and put their interests and needs above Himself. And even though He was and is God, and had every right to be arrogant and selfish, demanding that others serve him, Jesus sacrificed Himself throughout His life for the good of others, and He sacrificed Himself for all of us when He died on the cross for our sins.

Why is this so important for families to remember? It’s important, because it’s really hard to get along and to love each other when you or anyone else in your family puts themselves first. And it’s important,

## Week 2 - Family Devotions

because if we want to have the kind of unity in our families that God wants, then we need to make the choice each day to be humble and to set our selfishness aside. The more we practice humility, the more we will become like Jesus and the more we will please God.

### Do

- Read the following scenarios aloud. Discuss whether or not the children in each scenario are being prideful or humble. After you discuss these scenarios, create some additional scenarios of your own.
  1. Elizabeth was excited to get a good grade on her math quiz. She thanked her parents afterwards for encouraging her and helping her to study the night before.
  2. Ian saw the mess his younger brother made in the hallway at home. Ian knew one of his parents would probably clean it up, but he decided to clean it up himself before his parents noticed.
  3. Miranda and her friend both had solos in the school play, but Miranda was upset afterwards when her friend seemed to get more attention than she did.
  4. David went over to his friend's house. David told his friend, "My house is better, because it's bigger than yours."
  5. Stacie used her own allowance to buy and donate a toy for her church's Christmas Toy Drive.
  6. Robert noticed that nobody was sitting next to the new student at lunch, so he went over and sat with him.

