

# Bible Study Questions

## ***One the Way – Mark 9:30-41***

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### **Focus**

As Jesus is on the way to Jerusalem to die in order to serve His people, so too those who follow Him must live as those who are 'on the way' – humbly serving all those who belong to Jesus and doing so in His name. For that is what it means to be truly great in the kingdom of God.

### **Read**

[Mark 9:30-41](#)

### **Listen**

CCNYC teaching on Mark 9 which can be found on our [website](#)

*As you study this passage on your own or with a small group of others, here are some questions for study, reflection, and application.*

### **Some Questions for Study and Reflection**

1. Compare what Jesus says in 9:30-31 with what He said in 8:31. What do you think the disciples still don't understand and why are they afraid to ask Him about it?
2. Does it surprise you that the disciples soon after hearing about Jesus' impending death were arguing among themselves about who among them was the greatest? Why or why not?
3. What makes Jesus' response to them in verse 35 so shocking?
4. How does Jesus use a child to illustrate His point? Elsewhere (10:13-16), Jesus says that people are to be like little children, but here His point is different. How so?
5. Why should we understand Jesus' reference to children here to also be a reference to those who are His disciples? (see 9:41-42, 10:24, Matthew 10:42, 1 John 2:1)
6. How would you describe John's attitude in verse 38? How does it compare with what Jesus is calling for in verses 35-37?

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7. What is Jesus saying in verse 40? How is it to be reconciled with what He says in Matthew 12:30 and Luke 11:23?

### **Closing Reflection and Application**

8. What are some common ways our culture defines 'greatness'?
9. Based on Jesus' teaching here, what do you understand Jesus' definition of greatness to be?
10. Is it right to strive for this kind of greatness? How can we do so in a humble, God-honoring way?
11. Much in Sunday's sermon was made of this phrase 'on the way'? What does this phrase mean in Mark's Gospel (particularly in chapters 8-10) and how should it impact our understanding of this passage?
12. What are some ways that you/we can be 'the last of all and servant of all'?
13. What are some ways that you/we can serve those who 'belong to Christ'?
14. What are some ways you can be a better servant at Christ Church?
15. What are some way that you/we can celebrate God's work in other Christians and other churches?
16. Given Jesus' teaching here, how should we understand denominational differences or differences between local churches? Can you think of examples of when it would be wrong for us to partner with other churches and ministries who profess to be Christian?
17. Why must the gospel be what shapes our understanding of and obedience to this passage?