

James and John

Lesson At-A-Glance

Scripture Reference
Mark 10:35-45


Lectionary Sunday/
Church Season
Pentecost

Lesson Focus
**We are God's special
servants.**



Tear here for easy use!

Gather (10 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
<p>Arrival Time Kids practice making the sign of the cross with their left and right hands, and do an Activity Page.</p>	<p>Activity Pages </p>	<p>Markers or pencils</p>
<p>Circle Time Kids greet each other using the letter J, hear about the church season, and make the sign of the cross with each hand.</p>	<p>Leaflet</p>	<p>None</p>
<p>Prayer Time Kids pray an echo prayer.</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>None</p>

Open the Bible (15 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
<p>James and John Storytelling Leader or kid reads aloud from the Spark Story Bible, and kids raise hands to indicate when they hear disciples' names.</p>	<p>Spark Story Bibles</p>	<p>None</p>
<p>Story Arms Kids use hand and arm motions to help tell the story.</p>	<p>Leaflets, Lesson Stickers</p>	<p>None</p>
<p>My Cross Necklace Kids decorate a picture of a cross necklace.</p>	<p>Leaflets</p>	<p>Pencils or markers</p>

Activate Faith (15 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
Who Is It? Kids decode a message.	Leaflets	Pencils or markers
Christ Is All Around Us Kids learn about St. Patrick and pray a prayer written by him.	Leaflets	None
Crafts the Other Way Around Kids do a craft with their non dominant hand.	None	Watercolor paints, cups of water, paintbrushes, blank paper

Tear here for easy use!

Send (5 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
Good-bye Time Kids select what they will do at home this week and make the sign of the cross as a blessing.	Leaflets	Pencils, scissors
Prayer Time Leader prays, including each kid's name in the prayer.	Leaflets, Family Pages 	None



Visit www.sparksundayschool.org for more Spark content! Watch a short Lesson Prep video that will prepare you and give you confidence to explore this Bible story with the kids you are leading. You will also find four downloadable resources for this lesson: an Activity Page, a Family Page, and two additional in-class activities.

Gather (10 minutes)

Arrival Time

Set out copies of the Activity Page for this lesson and markers or pencils on a table.

In today's Bible story, we'll hear about two men who want to sit on Jesus' left side and right side. Let's figure out which is our right and which is our left hand. Take your left hand and draw the sign of the cross in the air. Demonstrate. Now take your right hand and draw the sign of the cross in the air. It looks like Jesus Christ is on both our left side and right side!

Invite kids to do the Activity Page. When all kids have arrived, invite them to join you in a circle or small group.

Spark Resources

Activity Pages



Supplies

Markers or pencils

Circle Time

Let's welcome everyone today. For each person in our class, we will say, "God welcomes *name of kid* into the family of God!" Today we meet two friends of Jesus whose names begins with a J. Let's use the letter J today as we greet each other. Tell something about yourself that begins with the letter J. I will go first. "I just want to jump rope and learn about Jesus." Give each kid a turn, helping those who might struggle with this.

Hold up a leaflet and point to the picture of the leafing tree on the green background under the lesson title. **Look at your leaflets. What color do you see? (green) What picture clue do you see? (tree with leaves) By looking closely at these things, we can tell that it's the church season of Pentecost. Pentecost is the long season that comes before Advent when we prepare for Christmas, and after Easter when we celebrate Jesus' new life. During the long season of Pentecost, we can ask Jesus many questions, like James and John do in our story today. Jesus wants us to keep learning every season.**

If the kids in your class tried the Faith on the Go! activities from last week's leaflet, be sure to invite kids to share what they did. If some kids didn't formally do it, ask how they showed love to someone or helped another person during the last week.

When we gathered today, you heard that our Bible story includes two men named James and John who wanted to be at Jesus' right and left hands. James and John wanted to be the closest ones to Jesus. Jesus told them that they had to share Jesus with everyone. How did you do with making the sign of the cross with each of your hands? What are some things you do that require both of your hands? Let's pray a prayer and then get ready to hear today's Bible story, called James and John.

Spark Resources

Leaflet

Supplies

None

Tear here for easy use!

Prayer Time

Invite kids to repeat each phrase after you say it.

**Dear God,
We want to love you.
We want to be
Your special servants.
Teach us how
To care for each other.
Help us serve in your name.
Amen.**

Spark Resources

None

Supplies

None

Open the Bible (15 minutes)

James and John Storytelling

Let's listen to the Bible story about James and John. They were two of Jesus' disciples. James and John wanted Jesus to give them a special place. Jesus surprised them by saying that everyone is special.

Pass out the Spark Story Bibles and invite everyone to find the story James and John on pages 336-37. Wait until all kids have found the story, assisting those who may need help. Encourage kids to follow along as you read or ask for a volunteer to read aloud.

Let's play a listening game with this story.

When you hear the name James, hold up your right hand. The word *right* has five letters in it: (hold up and point to each finger) **R-I-G-H-T; so does the name, James **J-A-M-E-S**. That will help you remember which is your "James" hand. Hold up five fingers whenever you hold up your right hand for "James."**

When you hear the name John, hold up your left hand. The word *left* has four letters in it: (hold up and point to each finger) **L-E-F-T; so does the name, John: **J-O-H-N**. That will help you remember which is your "John" hand. Hold up four fingers and fold in your thumb whenever you hold up your left hand for "John."**

When you hear the word *disciple*, hold both hands up high! Listen and hold up your hands when you hear the words *James*, *John*, and *disciple*. Are you ready? Let's go!

Read the story again, pausing each time one of the words *James*, *John* or *disciple* is read. Give kids time to react with their hands. At the end, ask the kids, "Did

Spark Resources

Spark Story Bibles

Supplies

None

Tear here for easy use!

anyone count how many times we raised each hand? Both hands?"

Have a brief conversation about the story. Ask the kids these questions:

- 1. What did the brothers James and John ask of Jesus?** (*to sit at Jesus' right side/hand and left side/hand in heaven*)
- 2. What did Jesus say was the best way to serve him?** (*serve others*)
- 3. Why do you think we all want to be number one?** Affirm all responses.

Story Arms

If kids are not already seated at a table, move to one for this activity. Give each kid a leaflet.

Look at the Bible story picture on the first page. Something is missing. Can you guess what or who isn't there today? (*one of the disciples*) Hand out stickers to kids so they can complete the picture. **Use the sticker to finish the picture; then we'll tell the story of James and John.** Pause to give kids time to place their stickers.

Now that we can see both of the main characters, let's use our hands and arms to help tell the story. I'll read each line, and then we can learn the hand motions together:

James and John and the disciples LOVED Jesus. (make a heart with your hands)

"Can we sit next to you, Jesus?" (clasp your hands together like you are begging)

"Everyone gets to sit next to me!" said Jesus. (stretch out your arms)

"I know you love me," Jesus told his disciples. (make a heart with your hands)

"You can love me by helping others," Jesus told them. (wave your hands at others)

"We can all serve others," said Jesus. (cheer with both arms)

Let's put it all together now—make a heart, then beg, stretch, make another heart, wave, and cheer. Read the activity one more time and do the motions together. **Good job! You're ready to go share the story with others!**

Let's look at the bottom of this page and read about where we can find this story in the Bible.

Today's Bible story, James and John, is from the book of Mark. Mark's book is a Gospel. Gospel means "good news." The Gospels tell the good news about Jesus.

Now look at the bottom of the third page in your leaflet. It has the same words that we just read, but it's missing some important words. Use the word stickers to fill in the blanks. Which word do you think goes where? (*James, news, Jesus*)

After attaching the stickers, read the statements together.

Spark Resources

Leaflets
Lesson Stickers

Supplies

None

Tear here for easy use!

If you are interested in teaching your kids a Bible memory verse from this story, use this one. Teach it to them by inviting them to echo what you say, one phrase at a time.

For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many. Mark 10:45

My Cross Necklace

Invite kids to open to the second page of their leaflets. Ask for a volunteer to read the sentences. Help with the words as needed.

James and John wanted to be near Jesus. Some people wear a cross necklace to remind them of Jesus. Decorate your own cross necklace to remind you that Jesus is near. You can write words, draw pictures, make a fancy design—it's your cross.

As kids are doing the activity, ask them additional questions: **Why do crosses remind us of Jesus?** (*Jesus died on a cross*) **Where else do you see crosses that remind you that Jesus is near?** (*at home, church steeple, on cars, etc.*) Pause for kids' responses. **Where is the biggest cross you have ever seen?**

Spark Resources
Leaflets

Supplies
Pencils or markers

Tear here for easy use!

Activate Faith (15 minutes)

Who Is It?

Let's look at the third page of the leaflet.

James and John had their minds on the one they loved. Let's put our minds on the one we love. This week's "Try It" page has a word puzzle to solve. Each line gives you one clue to a word. The first clue is, "Eat this with peanut butter." Any guesses? (*jelly*) And how do we spell that word? (*J-E-L-L-Y*) Write those letters in the blanks next to the jar of peanut butter. J-E-L-L-Y. Try to do the next one by yourself or with a neighbor. Work through the remaining sentences, helping spell words for kids who need it.

Now let's take the first letter of each of the answers, the letters in the ovals. Write each of these first letters on the lines at the bottom. What new word do they spell out? (*Jesus*) Good work! How do we spell Jesus? (*J-E-S-U-S*) Yes! We know Jesus' name, and Jesus knows our names.

Spark Resources
Leaflets

Supplies
Pencils or markers

Christ Is All Around Us

Turn to the back page of your leaflets. James and John saw Jesus right next to them. If you could point to Jesus, where would you point? There was a famous Christian named St. Patrick who lived in Ireland. He wrote a famous prayer.

Turn to the back page of your leaflets. Let's read about St. Patrick and learn his prayer together. Invite a volunteer to read the activity. Then help kids learn the prayer:

**Christ above me.
Christ on my right,
Christ on my left.
Christ beneath me.**

Say the prayer to yourself silently and point to one of the hearts above one of the kids' faces. There is a heart above them, to their right, to their left, and beneath them. Christ is ALL around us. Give kids time to practice independently.

Spark Resources
Leaflets

Supplies
None

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Crafts the Other Way Around

Place paint supplies on the table or have kids move to one already set up.

James and John wanted to sit at Jesus' right and left sides. Are any of you left-handed? Right-handed? Both-handed? That's called ambidextrous. Let's experiment doing something with the hand you don't usually use. It's called your non dominant hand, but we sometimes call it our "other hand."

Use your "other" hand to paint a picture that reminds you of this story. It doesn't have to be perfect. Just try to use your other hand to remember that we are all God's special servants. No matter which hand we like to use best, God loves all hands the same!

Spark Resources
None

Supplies
Watercolor paints
Cups of water
Paintbrushes
Blank paper

Send (5 minutes)

Good-bye Time

Thank you for coming to class today! We learned about James and John and that God needs all of our hands to reach out to others. We found out that we should serve others if we want to serve Jesus. The disciples were special servants of God, and we can be, too. We can be servants to our family and friends.

Direct attention to the Faith on the Go! slip on the bottom of the back page, and have the kids fill in the blanks with the name of someone they want to give this slip to, their own name, and today's date. **Who do you want to be a servant to this week, and what do you want to do?** Encourage them to mark one or more of the ideas or add their own. Cut the slip off on the line, ready to give to someone else.

After class, give this slip to someone you want to do the activity with. It's like a coupon for time with you. Next week we can tell each other how we were special servants like the disciples!

When we make the sign of the cross, we remember that God is with us every moment of every day. Make the sign of the cross on your forehead or in your hand to remember God's protection for you this week. Then make the sign of the cross in a friend's palm and say, "We are God's special servants." At the end of class, do the same for each kid and ask them to do the same for you.

Prayer Time

Listen for your name in our good-bye prayer. Let us pray:

God,

We pray for our Sunday school class.

I pray for (list kids by name).

Help us to learn how to serve you with a happy heart.

Keep us focused on you.

Amen.

Be sure to send the leaflets and Family Pages home with kids, dismissing them as appropriate.

Spark Resources
Leaflets

Supplies
Pencils
Scissors

Tear here for easy use!

Spark Resources
Leaflets
Family Pages



Supplies
None